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THE TIMES

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Maxwell rebuff

Three institutional shareholders of the John Waddington games manufacturer have withdrawn their acceptance to the takeover offer from Mr Robert Maxwell's BPCC shortly before he was expected to announce he had won control. Page 13

Walesa chaired

Lech Walesa was carried on the shoulders of chanting supporters after a stormy meeting at the Gdańsk shipyard called by the government to explain its policies. Minister jeered, page 5

Murder charge

Two leaders of the Ulster Defence Association were arrested as a man was accused of murdering Mrs Maire Drumm, of Provisional Sinn Fein, in hospital, seven years ago. Page 2

Beirut blasts

A French soldier was killed and eight others injured in an explosion in Beirut. Another blast at the Air France office in Beirut killed three Lebanese. Page 4

Trudeau in peril

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, is facing a clamour from his Liberal Party backbenchers for his resignation. Page 5

Scientific talks

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Football trio

England want to invite a leading world football country to take part in a three-cornered tournament with England to replace the Home Championship, which is being discontinued. Page 17

British gold

Adrian Moorhouse, aged 19, won Britain's first gold medal in the European swimming championships at Rome in the 200 metres breaststroke. Page 16

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Leading articles: Mitterrand and Chad; Prisoners in foreign jails; BA goes to law.

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Two pits closed in swift action to test militants

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Coal Board yesterday issued its long-awaited challenge to miners' leaders by announcing the immediate closure of two pits in militant coalfields regarded as test cases in the battle over uneconomic collieries.

In the last days of Sir Norman Siddall's chairmanship of the board the industry's senior management has dismissed appeals against the shutdown of Cardowan pit near Glasgow and Brynlliw mine near Swansea, employing a total of 1,400 men.

Miners at Cardowan are holding a secret ballot to decide whether they will continue their opposition to the closure. Mr Alec Hogg, delegate of the National Union of Mineworkers there, said that if the men voted for industrial action the colliery could be occupied.

In South Wales, the NUM area executive meets today to discuss the union's next step following the "complete shock" registered locally by the closure decision.

However, the board is moving swiftly to head off a possible confrontation by ceasing coal production at Cardowan today and putting the mine on a salvage basis from Monday.

Priority is being given to the transfer of men to other Scottish pits. In the absence of Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, who is in Moscow on union business, a spokesman at union headquarters in Sheffield accused the board of "losing all sense of reason".

A similar battle over the fate of Kinnel colliery in Scotland ended in defeat for the union over the Christmas holiday

It was becoming "brutally clear" that the board was

operating to a government dictat to hit miners' jobs as hard as possible, he said.

"As with all bullies, they will only stop when the membership hits back," he added.

The opportunity for the NUM to do so will come on September 15, when the national executive meets to decide whether the time is "appropriate" to hold a secret pithead ballot in the hope of securing a 45 per cent majority for strike action.

The initial response of union leaders yesterday, however, was cautious and points away from an early appeal for industrial action.

Mr Michael McGahey, president of the Scottish miners,

said that he would be seeking national talks to defend Cardowan. Its closure would be top of the agenda at next month's executive meeting.

By then the pit is likely to be shut. Of the original workforce of 1,090, about 70 have been transferred and another 30 have volunteered for redundancy.

The board says that about 150 men will be kept in for salvage work and the rest will be offered jobs in the Fife Coalfield.

Mr Albert Wheeler, director of the Scottish area, said: "We now want to get these men into our more productive collieries so they can make a contribution to the area's drive for higher productivity and to improve the profitability of our pits. Older men who have given a lifetime of service to the industry can take advantage of our voluntary redundancy scheme."

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President Habré is trying to convince him of the desirability of avoiding further conflict in the interests of reaching a negotiated settlement.

Breaking his silence on the Chadian conflict for the first time since French troops were sent to Ndjamena in August, Mitterrand said in an interview with *Le Monde* that the troops were continuing to fulfil France's obligations under its 1976 treaty with Chad simply to provide instruction and logistical help without engaging in any fighting. Not a single shot had been fired by a French soldier so far.

They were also fulfilling a "deterrent role" for whoever might want to approach the zone where we are.

"It is well known that, if threatened, our troops would retaliate," Mitterrand said.

"They would not limit their response to one of defence alone."

Replying to increasing criticisms over the past few weeks of the Government's alleged failure to send troops into Chad quickly enough, President Mitterrand said: "If we had acted in any other way, either France would already have been at war with Libya for several weeks, or the Libyan Army would be at

earlier this week, the Chadian Government announced that it would ask France for military help when it was ready to launch its counter-offensive against Faya-Largeau.

Mitterrand insisted yesterday that the French troops "cannot be considered as an auxiliary force subject to a strategy in whose determination they have no part".

"We must now harmonize our actions. Since France's presence is considered necessary, it must be understood that she will only go where she wishes in the joint interests that she is trying to serve," The President added.

M Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, flew to Ndjamena at the President's request yesterday, officially "in order to inspect the French troops." However, it is expected that he will also hold talks with

Continued on back page, col 7

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France is ready to fight the Libyan-backed rebels in Chad if they launch a new offensive against President Hissein Habré's forces. President Mitterrand stated yesterday.

While insisting that France has a negotiated settlement, he confirmed his total opposition to any settlement involving the partition of Chad. However, he left deliberately unclear what France's response would be to any attempt by President Habré to recapture the key town of Faya-Largeau in the Libyan-occupied northern half of the country.

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Continued on back page, col 7

Oil drum raft's skipper saved by Spanish ship

By Richard Evans

Günther Miesen, the madcap German seafarer given up for dead after his empty oil drum raft, complete with bicycle, was found in the Bay of Biscay last weekend, is safe and well.

The lone sailor, who was sighted off Devon earlier this month during his bid to sail from Germany to Portugal, had been picked up by a Spanish ship, the Jata Mendi.

His weird craft - called Das Ding (The Thing) - consisted of

bits of wood, metal and oil drums lashed together, with a bicycle tied to the makeshift deck.

French search and rescue officials told Falmouth coastguards last night that The Thing's skipper was recovered safe and sound.

Mr Michael Clouston, a Falmouth coastguard, said last night: "Apart from being extremely foolish he is extremely lucky."

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Legal moves, page 18

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Social services told to show people their case records

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

People receiving help from the social services are to be given the right to see their case records under guidance issued yesterday by the Department of Health and Social Services.

The guidance overturns decades of practice in which social workers compiled confidential files on elderly people, children, disabled people and mentally ill or handicapped people, in the expectation that their subject would never read them.

The department has been compelled to lay down rules on access to the files because a number of local councils have decided that they should be open.

A circular outlining how councils should make such files accessible asks them to set up safeguards to protect information from or about third parties.

The circular, which comes after a consultation paper issued last month, also wants safeguards to protect social workers' judgments and to consider the possibility that some people might be distressed by what they read in their files.

Elderly people, for example, might learn that they were less than welcome in their families, or children might discover that their parents had criminal records or a history of mental disorder.

Information provided by third parties, such as doctors,

Robbery charge boys remanded

"We are in favour of improved access by clients to their files, but there has been very little consultation on how it should be done," he said. "If there is a heavy demand from clients to see their files, there will have to be some vetting and it could cost each local authority £20,000 a year to implement."

Because existing records have been compiled on the assumption that their contents would never be disclosed, they should not be made available under the

Shuttle expected to draw callers

By Bill Johnstone
Electronics Correspondent

British Telecom expects a substantial increase in telephone traffic next Tuesday when subscribers dial to overheat communications between the newly-launched space shuttle and its control centre in Houston, Texas.

More than £100,000 was spent by British telephone callers during the last two shuttle flights in April this year and last August. Next week's flight takes off at 6am, for the first time.

The shuttle, the eighth to be launched by the United States, is expected to take off at about 6.30 am BST. Telephone callers wanting to dial the shuttle service can do so from two hours before the take-off.

In the past there has only been voice communication between the space-craft and earth for about 20 per cent of each orbit but that is expected to be improved by a new communication satellite launched last June. A sister satellite, to be launched next spring, will give continuous voice communication.

Next week's mission is due to last until September 5. Bad weather will delay the launch.

The crew members are Richard Truly, the commander, Dan Brandenstein, the co-pilot and three mission specialists: Dale Gardner, Bill Thornton and Guion Bluford.

Shuttle number: 910-1-307-410-6272.

Computer to teach Spanish

By our
Electronics Correspondent

A method for learning foreign languages in a quarter of the time normally taken by conventional means has been developed for home microcomputers by a psychologist.

The system, evolved by Dr Michael Grunberg, from University College, Swansea, and called Linkword, has been designed to give the student proficiency in 400 words of vocabulary in about 12 hours.

The programs are being written for the BBC Microcomputer, manufactured by Acorn, and will go on the market by Christmas. Each course, of a dozen hours, will be split into two sections or modules, each of which will cost between £10 and £20.

The program provides a visual link between an English word and the respective foreign word, based on its sound. For example in Spanish, which will be the first language package available, bread in English is translated into pan. The student will see the screen of his home microcomputer a colour graphic with bread in a pan. The student, the creator of the program says, is able to learn quicker because of his visual association.

Acorn says: "The user has a visual mnemonic which makes more efficient use of the brain".

The language programs are expected to be available on other types of microcomputers. More programs will be written for other languages.

Miner dies

Mr Paul Lynam, aged 18, a miner of Limby, Nottinghamshire, died yesterday, a day after suffering internal injuries when he was trapped in an underground conveyor belt at Babington Colliery, Nottingham.

Finance firm chief jailed for fraud

A finance company chairman, Robert Millage, lived in a "make-believe world of self-delusion" when he offered firms cash loans at low interest rates, the Central Criminal Court in London was told yesterday.

After only five months trading his company collapsed with debts of £124,000 without completing a single transaction and he had traded while an unchartered bankrupt, the court heard.

Millage, aged 42, of Abberley Close, Church Hill, Redditch, Hereford and Worcestershire,

was jailed for three years for fraudulent trading, obtaining £40,500 in loans from a bank and building society, and making false statements in 1966. He was banned from managing a company for five years.

Millage, who pleaded not guilty, claimed he had "lost his memory" after being stabbed by his wife in 1963, the year he was made bankrupt. He said that as the result of selective amnesia he could not remember the proceedings of being made bankrupt.

Judge Sutcliffe QC, told Millage: "You are not God's gift to commerce. You are prepared to lie your way out at any length, but you are not going to win by deceiving honest people."

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East and West getting together

Angry delegates stage sit-in over Malta at Madrid conference

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain announced yesterday that it is going ahead with invitations to the foreign ministers of the 35 nations at the European Security Review Conference to come for a major East-West gathering here early next month, regardless of Malta still pursuing obstructionist tactics.

Señor Fernando Moran, the Spanish Foreign Minister, is anxious for Madrid to be the scene between September 7 and 9 of an encounter between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Minister.

The foreign ministers' gathering, diplomats explained, would be held technically outside the security conference framework with invitations issued by Spain through the normal diplomatic channels.

Malta has obliged the 34 Western, Communist and neutral countries to adopt this course by refusing to join in the consensus on a 35-page final document dealing with East-West relations which everyone else accepted on July 15.

A formal concluding session of the almost three-year long Madrid meeting would have to be held later.

US signs Moscow grain deal

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr John Block, the American Agriculture Secretary, yesterday met Mr Gaidar Aliev, the Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, in what is seen as a further move towards easing Soviet-American relations.

Mr Block described the talks as "constructive, useful and friendly", although some diplomats were sceptical, pointing out that the Kremlin and the White House remained at daggers drawn. Mr Block agreed there was "more work to be done".

Earlier, Mr Block had signed a new grain agreement providing for an increase in American grain supplies over the next five years. He described this as a very important occasion. Mr Nikolai Patolichev, the Soviet Foreign Trade Minister, who signed on behalf of Russia, nodded and said "yes".

It was not the most earth-shattering exchange between politicians of East and West but it did mark a slight thaw in the distinctly chilly relations between Moscow and the Reagan Administration. Mr Block is the most senior administration official to visit here since the funeral of President Brezhnev last November.

The meeting with Mr Aliev, who is a full Politburo member, is seen as a sign that both sides are using the visit to explore a political rapprochement, perhaps eventually leading to an Andropov-Reagan summit. The meeting was squeezed into what amounted to a one and a half day visit.

Mr Block leaves Moscow this morning. He said on arrival on Wednesday that the new grain agreement not only marked a return to more normal trading relations but also showed that Russia and America could work



Moscow mirth: Mr Block, left, and Mr Patolichev after the signing of the grain agreement.

East Germans given missile message

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Egon Bahr, the Social Democratic disarmament expert, yesterday held talks in East Berlin with Herr Oskar Fischer, the East German Foreign Minister, continuing the top level discussions he has been having there about the deployment of new Nato missiles in West Germany.

On Wednesday Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, gave him an unusually blunt warning that if West Germany went ahead with deployment, the Soviet Union would be "forced" to station more medium-range missiles.

He also said that it would be

Uganda leaders conclude \$7m pact in Russia

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Four Uganda government ministers passed through London yesterday after concluding deals worth about £4.5m in Moscow.

They met a number of commercial contacts while in Britain, and appealed for investors to return to Kampala.

Dr Luwuliza Kirunda, the Minister of Internal Affairs and leader of the delegation, said that security was now comparable with that in any other African country at a similar stage of development.

The Soviet Union had agreed to grant \$5m worth of credits for a textile mill which had been started with Soviet help in the 1960s, and a school for agricultural technicians.

The Russians also promised to write off \$2m worth of debt.

Insults fly as Cameroon chiefs wrangle

Paris (AFP) - The former Camerounian President Mr Ahmadou Ahidjo renewed his attack on the protégé he put in power 10 months ago. President Paul Biya, calling him a "weakling", a "swindler" and a "hypocrite."

Speaking from his residence in the south of France, he said that he had refused a recent demand by Mr Biya that he should resign as head of the ruling Cameroun National Union which he retained when he stepped down after 22 years as President late last year.

Mr Biya announced earlier this week that he had smashed a plot to overthrow him.

Mr Ahidjo denied accusations by Camerounian exiles in France that he had stolen some \$2.500m (£1.600m) of state funds during his time in power and that he was planning to use it to recapture power.

Bonn alarm at 'Times' view on Rhine army

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

The debate on the Rhine Army started by *The Times* is being followed closely in Bonn by politicians and military leaders who have expressed alarm at the idea of Britain's handing over responsibility for the defence of West Germany's eastern frontier to a German unit.

The conservative newspaper, *Die Welt*, echoing the views of senior officials in Chancellor Kohl's Government, said that the leading article published in *The Times* on August 17 could have "fatal consequences" if the British Government were to follow up such proposals.

The Times believed that Belgium and The Netherlands would want to follow Britain's lead in leaving the defence of forward positions in Germany to the Bundeswehr. The relevant authorities in Bonn are said to know very well that they play the role of only a junior partner in Nato.



Two die in Berlin consulate blast

All that remained of the Maison de France on West Berlin's fashionable Kurfürstendamm yesterday after an explosion that killed two people and injured 23. The building housed the French Consulate as well as a cinema which was empty at the time.

An anonymous telephone caller to

Agence France-Presse said the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (Asala) was responsible. West Berlin police said the two men who died and 17 of those hurt were Germans. Two French citizens were among the injured.

The blast was the first reported

instance of Asala terrorist activity in West Germany. The group had given a warning that it would strike at French interests if France did not release the Armenians arrested after a bomb attack at Orly airport in Paris last month that killed eight people and injured 55.

The Namibia equation

Angola pessimistic on UN mission

From Richard Dowden, Luanda

No one in the Angolan capital has a drop of optimism to sweeten the arrival of Sénon Javie Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, who flies in from South Africa today.

Officially he is to discuss the implementation of Resolution No 435 of the United Nations which aims to bring South-West Africa (Namibia) to independence.

The South Africans are demanding the withdrawal of

the head of military intelligence in the region, said on Wednesday that the attack on Cangandala had been made to coincide with Sénon de Cuellar's visit "so that the South Africans can present Unita as part of the Namibia equation".

from the Soviet Union and other communist countries.

• **JOHANNESBURG:**

Sénon de Cuellar saw for himself yesterday why the lights burn dimly in South-West Africa (Ray Kennedy writes).

He was escorted over the massive hydro-electric power station at Ruscana, on the border with Angola, which was

designed to light up the whole of southern Angola.

The Angolan Government

refuses to open sluices on the Cunene river further upstream which means that the power station can operate only at limited capacity. The trans-

mission lines also are frequent targets for sabotage by Swapo guerrillas infiltrating from bases

in southern Angola.

The Secretary-General, who

arrived in Windhoek, the capital of South-West Africa yesterday spoke of his personal satisfaction at being able to familiarize myself with the situation in this country".

He spent the rest of the day

getting acquainted with the

complex internal political situation of a country with barely

one million people but several

dozen political parties.

Mr Andreas Shipanga, former

senior political official in the

Swapo hierarchy and now leader of the rival Swapo-Democrats

based in Windhoek, was the

first to meet Sénon de Cuellar.

Swiss turn palace in fortress

From Alan McGregor

General

Some of the more cautious

international civil servants

among the 2,500 at the UN

Palais des Nations complex

have thought it advisable to buy

individual "all eventualities"

insurance cover for the duration

of the international conference

on Palestine being held there

from Monday until September

7. Others are conveniently

going on holiday.

Those remaining at their

desks in the 14-storey confer-

ence building have protested at

some emergency staircases

being blocked for security

reasons.

Apprehension has become

apparent at the spectacle of the

UN complex, which has a

perimeter of about two and a

half miles, being converted by

the Swiss Army into a fortress

surrounded by barbed wire and

barriers, adjoining roads being

closed or restricted and nearby

schools closed until the second

week of September.

A no-go area between the

barriers is surveyed by soldiers

in camouflage uniforms, with

orders to shoot at any intruder

disregarding a single command

to halt.

The two UN buildings

are guarded by an augmented

force of UN security men, both

uniformed and plain clothes all

linked by radio.

Die Welt said that the

suggestions for a reduced Rhine

Army ran into considerable

scepticism here. What *The**Times* considered as tactical

rigidity was, for German poli-

cicians and military, the kernel of

Nato's aims - ensuring that

without widespread operations

on the territory of the Warsaw

Pact countries, possible attack

from the East were stopped as

close as possible to the inner-

German frontier. This was

possible with the forces as they

now existed.

The Germans have also been

hurt by suggestions that they

play the role of only a junior

partner in Nato.

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Canadian Liberal Party backbenchers clamour for Trudeau's resignation

Mr Pierre Trudeau's career must be burning since the Canadian Prime Minister left on a European holiday with his three sons more than a week ago, there has been an unprecedented outbreak of calls for his resignation from backbench MPs of his Liberal Party.

And this week, to add to his tribulations, a Cabinet minister swerved in 10 days earlier quit for undisclosed personal reasons. He was Mr Roger Simmons, Minister for Mines and Newfoundland's representative in the Cabinet. He has been an MP since 1979.

Suddenly, the Prime Minister's hold on the party and on power seems to have become extremely weak.

Seven Liberal MPs interviewed in a survey by the Canadian Press news agency stated their belief - on the record - that he should step down.

Perhaps the bluntest of the seven was Mr John Reid, a former Minister for Federal Provincial Relations who was passed over when Mr Trudeau put together a new Cabinet on regaining power in 1979.

"I believe it's time for Mr Trudeau to go," Mr Reid, who represents a north-western Ontario riding, said. "He's completed his agenda, and I don't know what he is sticking around for."

'Dead' Argentine escapes captors



Señor Kelly: Political crusades led to jail

Buenos Aires (Reuters AP) - Señor Patricio Kelly, a key witness in several human rights court cases who was kidnapped in Buenos Aires on Wednesday, is alive and well after escaping from his captors.

Earlier reports said he had been found dead outside the capital.

Señor Kelly told the police he got away by jumping out of a car. His wife Irma told the independent news agency Noticias Argentinas that he escaped near the Buenos Aires suburb of Ingeniero Maschwitz.

"Patricio is very hurt because he jumped out from the moving car," she said.

An eyewitness reported that Señor Kelly, running and shouting, "I'm Kelly, I'm Kelly, tell the police and Buenos Aires", appeared at an Argentine Automobile club station. A police car took him to a police station.

Señor Kelly, a maverick figure in Argentine politics, was kidnapped by a group of armed men in the capital shortly after leaving his home by car for the city centre.

A police car was on the spot but did not intervene to help him. Señor Kelly was beaten up and driven off in his own car, eye witnesses said.

A police statement said one of the kidnappers was a man dressed in the uniform of an army colonel. He told the policemen that only a minor traffic accident had taken place and they drove off.

A clandestine group calling itself "Free Argentina" claimed that it had kidnapped and killed Señor Kelly.

In a brief news conference in front of his suburban home Señor Kelly refused to say now he escaped. His face bruised

Three in daring escape to West by plane

Graz, Austria (AP) - Three Romanians yesterday escaped to the West in a crop-dusting aircraft, flying low to avoid radar.

They made a daring emergency landing near Rohrbach and asked for political asylum.

Police said the three were the pilot, aged 30, another man, aged 27, and his pregnant wife, aged 22, who was rushed to hospital at Hartberg.

One of the Romanians is reported to have said he wanted to go to the United States.

• RKD BRAMSTEDT: Two East German workers fled across the border into northern West Germany yesterday (AP report). West German border guards said the two men, aged 21 and 25, reached Schleswig-Holstein unharmed.

Civilians named in new Upper Volta Cabinet

Ouagadougou, (AFP) - A new Upper Volta Government has been formed, mostly of civilians three weeks after the coup by radical Army officers led by Captain Thomas Sanhaka against the administration of Major Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo.

The 15 civilians and five military men in the new Government, installed on Wednesday night, are very young, with an average age of about 30.

Captain Sanhaka, who was Prime Minister under Major Ouédraogo before being dismissed earlier this year, holds the offices of head of state and Minister of the Interior and Security.

The new Cabinet includes -

Minister is jeered and booed in Gdansk

Gdansk (AFP, Reuters) - Workers at the Lenin shipyard here greeted Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the deputy Prime Minister, with boos, whistles and hisses yesterday.

Since returning to power in 1980 after a nine-month Tory tenure of office, the Liberals under Mr Trudeau have had the misfortune of presiding over the worst recession in Canada's post-war history.

The Liberals are resuming the whirlwind - or so it appears - for their haste in engineering the overthrow of the Tory minority government and smashing back power, which in 1980 they had for 38 of the previous 45 years.

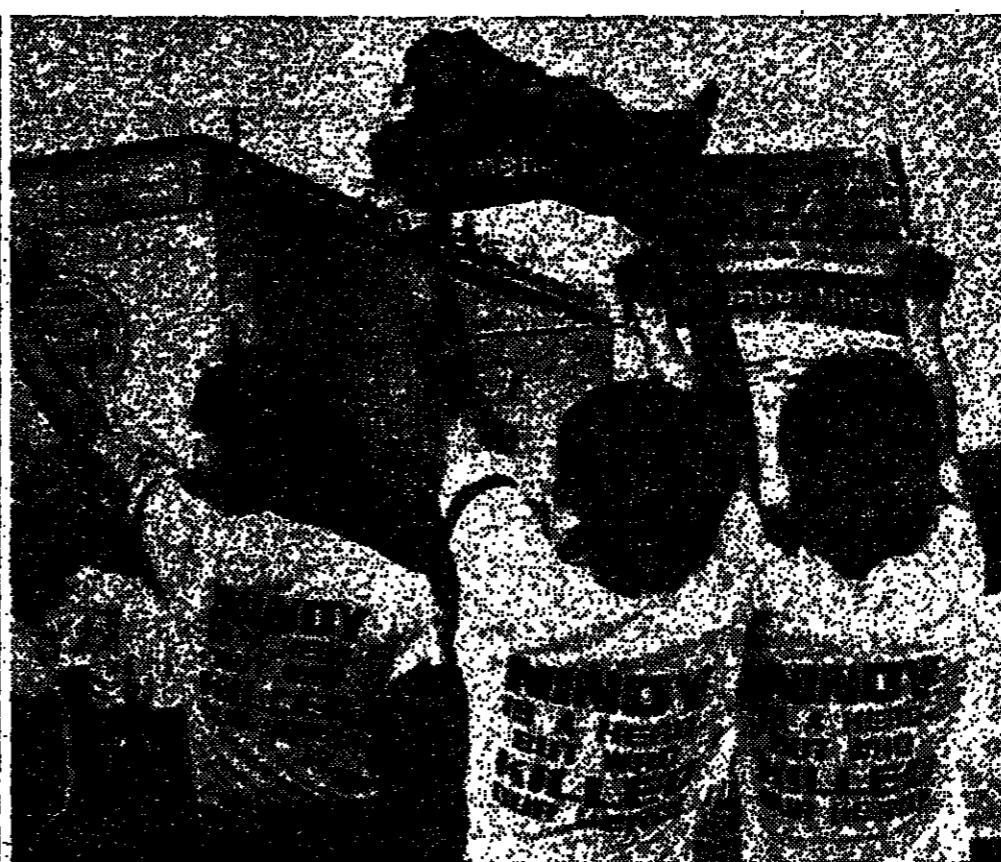
As it turned out, they could not have picked a worse time to return to office, with the economic downturn deepening almost everywhere.

Mr Trudeau, who has been in office since 1968 except for the brief Tory interlude, is the focus of much of the frustration and discontent felt by Liberals as their party's fortunes tumble.

The president of the party, Mrs. Joan Campagnolo, summed up the feelings of many Liberals, and the hope of many others, when she said recently that the public's dissatisfaction is with the Prime Minister, not the Liberal Party.

In line with that, a senior adviser to Mr Trudeau was later quoted as saying the Prime Minister will probably announce his resignation by Christmas. In fact, he may no longer have much choice.

Newspapers gave prominence to a report by the PAP news agency that a call for a work slow-down at the Lenin shipyards in Gdansk, the birthplace of Solidarity, had failed.



Thousands follow Aquino coffin

Mourners marching behind the coffin of Benigno Aquino in Manila yesterday. The huge crowds waved placards such as "Remember Ninoy", the nickname of the murdered Filipino opposition leader (Reuters photo).

Eyewitnesses said the crowds following the coffin from the Aquino family home to Santo Domingo church about a mile away were almost double the police estimate of 60,000.

Mr Aquino's widow, Corazon, returned from the United States with their five children on Wednesday night for the funeral.

The Philippines' police chief, Major-General Fidel Ramos, said yesterday contingency plans had been drawn up against possible disturbances when large numbers of people arrived in Manila for the funeral, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday.

Vanishing politician deported to Austria

From W. P. Reeves
Wellington

A former Austrian parliamentarian who disappeared under mysterious circumstances while on holiday in Italy two years ago will be deported from New Zealand to his homeland to face fraud charges.

Walter Paul Renner, aged 37, described by his lawyer as a "political hot potato", was convicted in Auckland yesterday on two immigration charges.

Renner was a leading figure in a property development company which had accumulated debts totalling £1.5m. His counsel, Mr Kevin Gould, told the court that the sum involved in fraud charges against him amounted to £40,000.

Renner disappeared on September 5, 1981. His clothes were found on a beach and he was presumed to have drowned. He is understood to have travelled first to England before arriving in New Zealand in November, 1981.

Under an alias he found work as a machine operator.

Mr Gould said Renner had become an MP in Austria in 1979. His liberal views had led to his falling out with the party leader early in 1981.

According to Mr Gould the strife he caused made him a hot potato. At the same time the company of which he was managing director got into "tremendous financial difficulties" and he resigned.

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LAW

20 years after Martin Luther King's stirring speech, American blacks are still fighting for equality. Reaganomics means hard times for many and the black protest is growing, writes Trevor Fishlock

Dreaming that dream

New York

The words echoed over Washington, and America beyond, sounding the beginning of one age and the beginning of another.

"I have a dream..."

It was August 28, 1963. Martin Luther King stood under gaunt Lincoln's gaze and cried out in impassioned oratory to the quarter of a million people who had marched on the capital.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character." Two weeks later whites bombed a black church in Alabama and killed four little children. There was to be more bloodshed and cruelty as Americans bent themselves to the unfinished business of the Civil War.

There followed the frenzied last stand of white supremacists, black fury and burning cities, and the murder of Martin Luther King himself five years after the declaration of his dream.

And in time the moderate civil rights movement, in which blacks linked hands with whites to sing "We Shall Overcome", began to wither as disillusioned blacks concluded it was better to jut an angry chin than offer a conciliatory cheek.

Dr King's oration at the Lincoln Memorial marked the peak of a movement acceptable to liberals for its nobility of purpose. But it also foretold that "whirlwinds of revolt" would go on shaking the United States - and they did. So while the speech was inspiring, it was also a sombre warning.

White liberals in the civil rights crusade found, like negroes, that slaying diehard southern dragons was not enough; that there were no easy solutions. They were perplexed and frightened by the bitterness of black revolt.

And blacks exposed the painful truth that racism was not just southern; it was American. Prejudice and hypocrisy flourished in the North, too.

The black grievance slid from stage centre as Vietnam dominated national consciousness in the 1970s. Today it is returning to prominence. Blacks know that much of Martin Luther King's dream remains a long way from realization, and they are growing restless for a fuller economic share.

The campaign of the 1960s wrought profound changes. The civil rights and voting rights acts were notable advances, bought with blood and suffering. The South today is astonished by what has been accomplished in the 20 years since Dr King said he dreamed that the children of slaves and slave owners would sit together.

But blacks see that far from being the end of the struggle the 1960s movement was an episode. It brought the deep South, at last, into the late twentieth century and properly into the United States, but its achievements were deceptive.

Blacks note with dismay that they are still far behind, hobbled by intractable difficulties, inequalities and discrimination. In a study two years ago, black academics decided "it is difficult to be optimistic about the future of blacks in American society".

The depth of frustration was illustrated recently by Leannita McClain, a journalist on the *Chicago Tribune*, in a raging article that seemed empty of hope, under the headline "How Chicago Taught Me to Hate Whites". She described as a race war the election this summer in which Harold Washington became the city's first black mayor.

Dublin
The heckler with the boy in his arms screamed: "You're an abortionist" at the chairman of Ireland's Labour Party near the end of yet another stormy meeting called to oppose the proposed constitutional amendment to ban abortion in the Republic. A professional politician such as Michael Higgins can fend off the increasingly vituperative interruptions. But others involved in small groups that have sprung up across the 26 counties to oppose the amendment, have had to develop thick skins rather quickly.

In Carlow one woman yelled at two first-time canvassers: "Women killing babies. Women indeed!" as her children ran along the street ripping to shreds anti-abortion leaflets.

With the September 7 referendum polling day approaching and opinion polls showing a shift against the amendment, rural Roman Catholic Ireland is being convulsed by debate of increasing acrimony and innuendo. Tales surface frequently of people walking out of Mass as priests deliver homilies saying that anyone against the amendment is pro-abortion. There is, too, anger that some clerics have invited pro-amendment laymen to speak from the pulpit and allegations that people

are being asked in confession which way they will vote.

The Church hierarchy appears aware of the dangers as well as the enormous changes that have taken place in Irish society and, while urging a majority for the amendment, has made clear that those opposed to it are not necessarily pro-abortion and that everyone has the right to vote according to conscience.

The proposed amendment has divided the Republic's churches, medical and legal professions, political parties, families, and even the country's largest farming organization. It has done untold damage to the liberal credentials of Dr Garret Fitzgerald. And though the media have devoted much space and air-time to the arguments for and against, spelling out an unprecedented amount of information on gynaecological problems and family planning methods, doorstep ignorance on the issue is astonishing.

The amendment declares: "the state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother guarantees in its law to respect and, as far as practicable, by

its laws to vindicate and defend that right." But the content of the amendment is rarely mentioned.

On the doorstep and campaign trail the issue is simplistic and emotive: for or against abortion.

Men show little or no interest,

regarding the issue as "women's business"; and some seem unable to understand the mechanics of voting in a referendum rather than in general and local elections.

Still more are impressed by a doctor's name appearing on the anti-abortion leaflet and the words "if it's good enough for him it's good enough for me" are commonly heard. Among the middle classes, anti-clerical strains are apparent, with people objecting to the Roman Catholic clergy interfering as well as the placing in envelopes of pro-life leaflets urging people to vote Yes.

Inevitably for some, it is a chance to knock Brimley, portrayed as a Sodom and Gomorrah. Some say that by passing the amendment Irish culture will be saved from complete Americanization. Never mind that many supporters of the amendment claim the *RBC* and *Dallas*, and that 3,500 Irish women travel to England each year

for abortions. One woman said: "It will be a message to the world that Ireland does not want abortion and has some standards."

The issue has also created surprising alliances, bringing people of different creeds together to join the campaign against the amendment.

The 30-strong anti-abortion group in Carlow, comprising 24 Roman Catholics and six Protestants, is entirely middle-class - a matter they regret - but alongside the married men and women are young bachelors from both denominations who are out afternoon and night canvassing. For some it has been a risk to their professional and business interests to be seen in a rural area opposing the amendment. One young estate agent has already had a house withdrawn from his firm because of his stance.

She ignored the warning of her poster, "a bribe would be through the window within minutes" and can now laugh at the abuse she has received on the doorstep. Amendment proponents have lectured her about sex, admonishing that if there were no sexual intercourse there would be no need for abortion. Mrs McDermott knows the danger of being labelled an "abortionist" in a rural community, but says: "By standing up I gave other people courage. It helps being in a crowd as it makes up for all the mud-slinging that is going on."

Motives for joining the anti-abortion group are mixed. The issue has widened from a debate about a pro-life amendment to a discussion about the future of Ireland and the prospects for unity between north and south. Some are alarmed that the amendment could be the forerunner of attempts to make the family planning laws

more restrictive. Others see it as a step back to the 1950s. Mrs McDermott, aged 37, a Roman Catholic doctor's wife, had never been involved in any political work or campaign until, she says, "I became so angry at this dreadful red herring being brought forward when Ireland has so many other problems."

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She is alarmed that if the amendment is passed operations for ectopic pregnancies and cancer of the womb may be more difficult and that certain forms of contraceptive, the IUD and morning after pill, will no longer be available. She

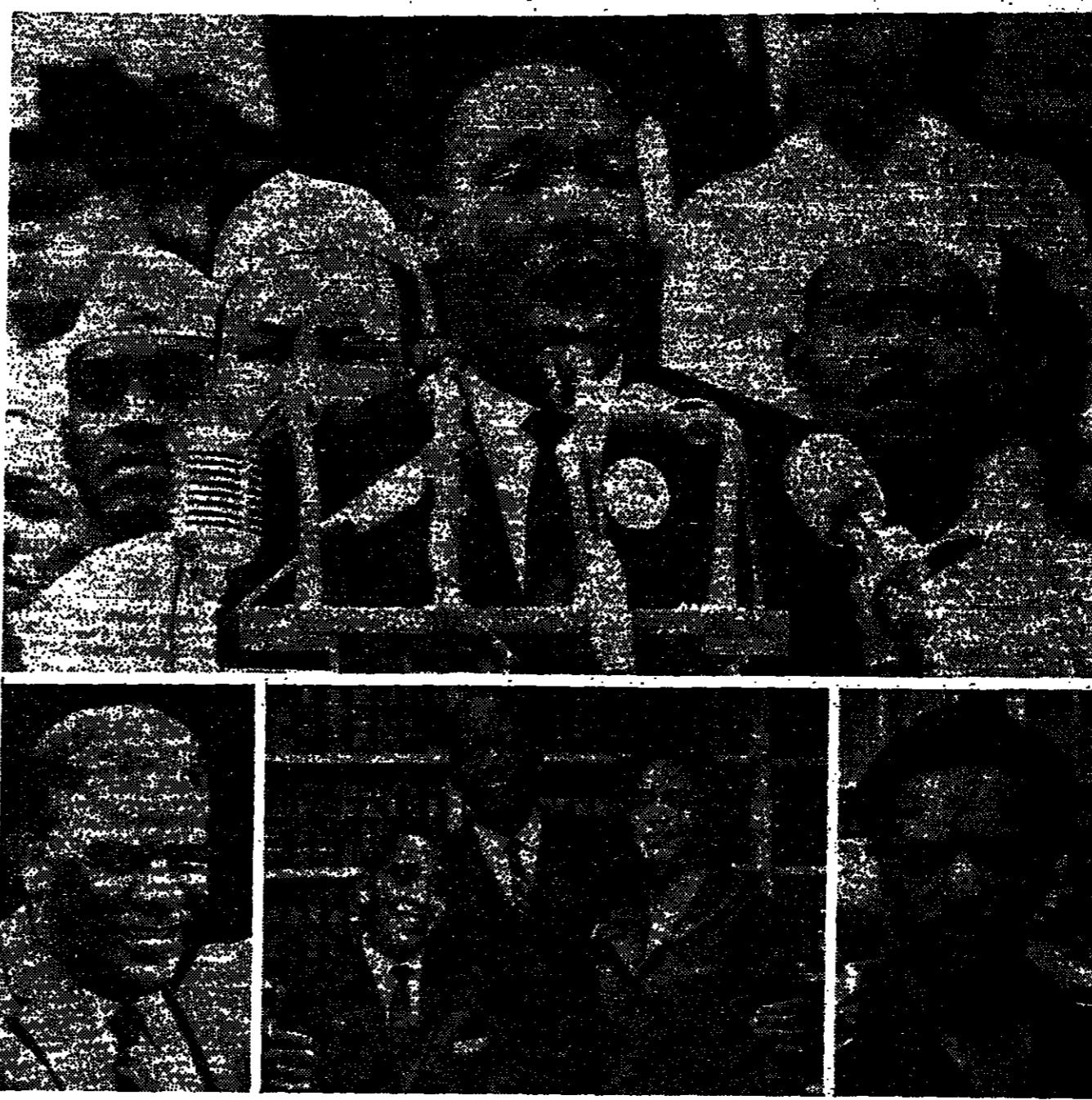
said: "I see it as my duty to explain all this to women for their sake, their children and their grandchildren."

As the group meets to plan its evening's canvas, two Protestant brothers who joined because they saw the proposed amendment as a regression, an attempt to halt the liberalization of the last few years, admit that such a group would have been "unthinkable" 20 years ago. Said one: "It existence shows a social change that has taken place and the number of Protestants involved is evidence that we are no longer prepared to sit back and opt for a quiet life. That happened too much in the past."

Many in the anti-abortion campaign privately believe they will lose the vote, pointing to the influence the clergy could have on the faithful on the last Sunday before polling. Others believe that they may lose the battle, but win the war.

The clamour for divorce, legalisation of homosexuality and less-restrictive family planning laws will continue, as will influences from both east and west on the Emerald Isle. As one leading anti-abortion campaigner put it: "We'll let the Roman Catholic Church have the abortion issue, but all the youngsters will get the contraceptives."

Richard Ford



"I have a dream": Martin Luther King (top) at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, and below, three of the men continuing the fight, from left Washington, Johnson and Jackson

overall black birthrate has fallen, the birthrate among single women has tripled in 20 years. Black leaders talk of an epidemic of births outside wedlock and are concerned at the decline in family and community responsibility, the damage to a traditionally family-oriented people.

Blacks see their tormented history and economic and social circumstances as contributors to this rot. They think the government should help with programmes to rebuild family life, but do not believe it is primarily a government problem. Rather, they think the black community and institutions must do more.

Harold Washington, Chicago's mayor, says: "We were slow to move from the protest movement into politics, lulled into thinking that passing a few laws was enough." Law, however, does change minds by creating a framework of behaviour, and the laws of the 1960s helped make America, and especially the 11 southern states where 53 per cent of blacks live, more racially tolerant, with tensions easing along with the dismantling of apartheid.

It used to be fashionable to be racist, part of the way of life. There was a great fear of the unknown in desegregation. But once the barrier was broken, people saw something good was happening. Everything here used to revolve around race. No longer. Mississippi held out to the last, now it is a model in race relationships."

"Yes, we've come a long way", Leroy Johnson said. He was Georgia's first black state senator 20 years ago. Drinking fountains, lavatories and cafés were segregated in the state assembly and, in his first session, only four of 52 senators spoke to him.

"All that's finished. The old open prejudice has gone, but it has moved into board rooms and is more subtle." The struggle of the 1960s led to fuller black participation in politics. Twelve years ago there were fewer than 2,000 black elected officials in America. Now there are more than 5,000.

In the mayor's office in Atlanta, premier city of the South, Andrew Young, former American Ambassador to the UN and once an aide to Martin Luther King, said it was important to remember how things were. "When I was a student, on my way home from college, I was afraid to stop in this city. Now I'm its second black mayor."

"Much of Martin's dream has been achieved, the social inequalities he fought have gone. We don't have to march against brutal sheriffs any more. The police force in Atlanta, for example, is 48 per cent black. But there is still oppression and discrimination. We haven't been able to find ways of changing things rapidly enough."

In Washington, that August day,

Martin Luther King also said: "I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice."

Whatever was happening in the rest of the United States, it was worse in Mississippi, poorest state in the union, where racism was brutal, embedded, legitimized.

Mississippians, black and white, look with wonder on the change from the days when soldiers had to make the state's demagogic leaders obey the law and desegregate. Charles Overby, executive editor of the *Clarion-Ledger*, in Jackson, the state capital, said: "I remember the day the first gubernatorial candidate shook hands publicly with a black man, knowing it would cost him votes."

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"Yes, we've won freedom," he said. "But not equality."

His emphasis is on demands for an economic and political share of what white Americans have - "A share, not welfare," and his activist organization, PUSH, confronts corporations, asking for better jobs deals.

Blacks are proud to have several big-city mayors among 5,000 elected black officials across the country. But 5,000 is only just over one per cent of the total, while blacks are nearly 12 per cent of the population. There are no black senators.

Typically, a black elected official is a well-educated, middle-aged, middle-class Democrat, voted in primarily by blacks. This profile demonstrates the difficulties blacks face in meeting Americans on equal terms. The middle class is the spring of political change, but the black middle class is very small and educational standards desperately need improvement. During the 1960s it was white civil rights workers who stiffened the ranks of the black middle class.

One of the key arenas for black assertion is in the Democratic Party, which blacks traditionally support. It is here that white intentions and liberal attitudes will be tested, perhaps painfully, for blacks are increasingly insistent that civil rights by themselves are not enough, that they must have political muscle and an economic pay-off.

The effort is being led by the charismatic Jesse Jackson, a disciple of Martin Luther King, who has been roaming the South tirelessly, telling the crowds gathered in churches, cotton fields and under the shade of pecan trees: "There's a freedom train a-comin'. If you've got to register to ride."

He tells them: "Reagan won Alabama by 17,000 votes, but there were 272,000 unregistered blacks. He won Arkansas by 5,000 votes, with 85,000

unregistered blacks..." He seeks to politicize and revitalise people who do not see voting as whites do, whose history of weariness and caution has deprived them of the community sense essential to the process of voting.

"I'm a catalyst," Jesse Jackson told me, "Inspiring participation in democracy, God is using me as a magnet to draw and inform people."

During the 1970s many blacks became convinced that managerial and corporate liberalism had been exposed as ineffective. They also looked to the Carter Administration to make improvements. It was disappointing. These failures, the recession and the squeeze of reaganomics, accelerated the emergence of Jesse Jackson, a more militant man than Martin Luther King.

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Twenty years ago Martin Luther King spoke at a time of struggle when hopes were running high. Today many blacks feel those hopes have been betrayed. The struggle is being renewed, and spirits are rising again. But the road looks harder.

moreover... Miles Kington

Fringe benefits, and worse

I think you'll find our production of *Othello* is rather different. We only have four performers: Othello, Desdemona, and two Iago. One of the Iago is a man, the other is a woman. Oh, and Othello is white."

"I'm from New Zealand and I'm doing a one-man show based on Highland music. I happen to think that the Scots have lost sight of the history and meaning of their own music, and I've come over here to try and put them right."

"There are four deaf people in our production of *Goldoni's play*, and the whole thing is done with speaking and sign language simultaneously."

"We're both 18 and we've formed our own dance company called 'Moove Dancers'. There are only the two of us in it. We must be mad."

I think they must all be mad. I think I must be mad. This is the opening ceremony of the Edinburgh Fringe, the one chance the groups get to come face to face with the media or, as administrator *SMMichael Dale* puts it, the time when the groups try to meet the press and the press tries to avoid the groups. There are hundreds of groups and they've all got a member here, handing out leaflets and doing a fast spiel about their show.

"Hi, we're the Hip Pocket Theatre from Fort Worth and we are the first Texan group ever to come to the festival, there are 45 of us doing three Texan plays and the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* has sent a review all the way here just to review us. He flew home again afterwards."

"Hello, we're the Omlette Broadcasting Company and we are the only improvising comedy group on the fringe, we ask the audience for ideas at the start and then we improvise on them."

"I'm Richard Feinstein and I'm in an Athol Fugard play about a South African brother and sister, I play the brother, and the sister is played by my mother. We got a rave review in *The Scotsman* last year, right at the end, so we've come back again."

"We're doing *Ben Hur* at the Fireworks Theatre. Yes, we're doing the chariot race."

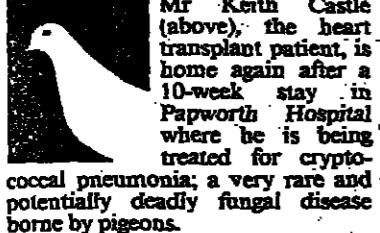
"We're the only group on the fringe doing eighteenth century music on authentic instruments."

"I have an exhibition of patchwork quilts at 4 Manor Place."

Why are all these people telling me these things? Because only one member of each group is allowed in and one member of our group (*Instant Sunshine*, advt), has already got in, so I am masquerading as a journalist. *The Times*, says my tape badge. It was a bad mistake. All these people are now telling me things.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Pigeon peril for heart patient



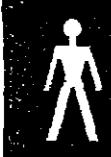
Mr Keith Castle (above), the heart transplant patient, is home again after a 10-week stay in Papworth Hospital where he is being treated for cryptococcal pneumonia; a very rare and potentially deadly fungal disease borne by pigeons.

Until June this year Mr Castle had not given much thought to pigeons. However, as he has enormous energy he decided recently to repair his roof. Pigeons were getting through the tiles and their droppings were mixing with the dust of ages on the floor of the roof space. It must have been this dust, breathed in by Mr Castle, which contained the lethal fungus *Cryptococcus neoformans*.

He was aware of the infection only because of a fortunate chest X-ray, for the fungus does not give rise to symptoms and serious trouble until it has spread from the lungs. In his case the disease, diagnosed while still confined to the lungs, has been treated with the powerful antifungal agent Amphotericin B, which he has had fed intravenously for four hours every other day. He has now completed two-thirds of the course; for the last third he will be an oral patient. His many well-wishers will be glad to know that the infection is receding.

Pigeons can also carry another form of pneumonia, ornithosis, caused by *Chlamydia psittaci*. Although rather less rare than cryptococcosis, it is however much more easily treated with a prolonged course of heavy doses of oral tetracycline. People whose association with pigeons does not go beyond throwing them the occasional stale crust are unlikely to be affected.

Needless dread



People will notice, but be too kind to draw attention to, the urgency with which the middle-aged man rushes to the lavatory. Surgeons are concerned that this conspiracy of politeness has given rise to a quite unnecessary dread which delays patients from having a necessary, statistically very safe, and quick operation. With a good surgeon, and if all goes well, a man may have a transurethral resection, the internal operation without any external wound, and be back at work within a fortnight.

Although in most men with prostatic symptoms the enlargement can be classified as benign, in some the tissue has turned malignant. There is good news for these patients. Two studies published in *The Lancet* of a new ICI product suggest that soon treatment may be possible without a man having to tolerate mutilating surgery, or the side effects of huge, castrating doses of female hormones.

Partnership problems



Scientists writing in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* have evaluated the effect of a wife's personality and education on the chance of her husband developing heart disease. Data gleaned from 269 marriages followed over 10 years show that if striving ambitious men marry women who have had further education their chance of heart disease is increased by 2.5 times; if the wife works outside the home by 3.5 times. The danger can be minimized if the man chooses a woman with a similar personality to his own; married to an easy-going woman he will fare particularly badly.

New antidepressant



The diagnosis and treatment of depression has featured in the correspondence columns of *The Times* this week, while a small news item drew attention to a new antidepressant, bupropion, trade name Wellbutrin, which, it is claimed, can be effective in treating people who have failed to respond to other antidepressants.

Papers on its use were enthusiastically received at the World Congress in Vienna, and reports in *The Clinical Journal of Psychiatry* were encouraging, but while the American FDA shows every sign of approval, rumours of doubt from the British Committee for Safety of Medicines have been heard.

Bupropion, therefore, may join a long list of preparations which are available only on one side of the Atlantic.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Correction

In Madhur Jaffrey's cookery article on Wednesday, the recipe for carrots with raisins and dates should have read: "Five medium-sized carrots and 1 medium-sized onion, peeled."

It's just more bigger over there

The US came top of the list in a survey of children's holiday choices published this week.

Alan Franks reports

If you have children between the ages of eight and 12, there is a strong likelihood that at least one of them is, where holidays are concerned, a nomadic, ice cream-loving, snail-taming aeronaut. Almost certainly, he or she is a thwarted Americophile.

This much, and plenty more, emerges from a survey just released by MORI (Market and Opinions Research International). It was conducted for Thomas Cook, the travel agents who were aware, like many parents, that the pre-adolescent sector has become, if not the seat of important summer decision-making, then at least a potent pressure group.

After all holidays, like houses and cars, are major items of family expenditure; and even if it is the parent who signs the cheque, it is no less the children who must live with the commitment. They derive much of their fascination from the fact that, again like houses and cars, they occupy the common ground between the two worlds of adults and children.

To influence the family's location for a fortnight, therefore, is to touch the levers of power.

MORI plumped for this age sector because, as director Tim Burns agrees, children younger than eight are hard to communicate with on abstractions or hypotheses. They occupy their own fantasy worlds so vividly that the matter of a holiday's physical placement is not of primary importance. Once over 13, of course, they begin to think in terms of adult behaviour and we have only ourselves to blame for the results of their spines.

MORI began with three groups of children, each consisting of six members. The first comprised girls of nine from working class families; the second middle class girls of 12, and the third boys of 10 and 11 from a mixture of family backgrounds. From these preliminary interviews was evolved a 12-part questionnaire in which 509 children took part during half-term holidays at the beginning of June. They were drawn from a broad cross-section of age (within the four-year span), social class, and region.

According to Burns, the process was a surprisingly educative one for parents as well as for Cooks. Under the code of conduct laid down by the Market Research Society, an adult must always be present at an interview with a child, and one of



the most popular parental misconceptions to be dispelled during these sessions was that children have a sort of holiday homing instinct - a desire to return to the same place year after year.

In fact only 32 per cent wanted to go back, with 64 per cent favouring fresh pastures and 4 per cent undecided.

Of those fresh pastures, North America is clearly the most popular - favoured by half those interviewed with Europe in second place on a 34 per cent vote. Britain claims only 8 per cent, level with Australia and New Zealand.

Sadly, these figures are a world away from reality, since just 1 per cent of the children made it to the States last year, 16 per cent to Europe, none to the Antipodes - but 78 per cent to Britain. The transatlantic lure is best summarized by this quote from an eight-year-old girl: "America's more bigger than all the other countries. The best bit about America is Disneyland. It's got three countries in America, it's got Washington DC, New York and Sidney."

Not that the badly undersubscribed Australia is without its romance, if you heed this 10-year-old blade: "I'd go to Australia, probably with a girl or something like that."

Burns says that, while he, like many parents, was surprised by the "wanderlust" element in the returns, the penchant for America was predictable. "As you can see, although few have been, there is a certain level of knowledge that all children share about the States, partly from the TV of course, but also from the importation of what you could call the McDonalds culture . . . the country appears to them to be bigger, broader, livelier and more exciting, all aspects which are very important. In this respect, America is a childlike country."

It is not just cost that inhibits parents from taking family holidays to America; there are the four other disincentives of food, healthcare, heat/climate, and travel problems, none of which loom nearly as large in a United Kingdom venture. What parents are obviously failing to grasp is that "Abroad" is not just a concept, it is actually another country.

In the words of this nine-year-old girl: "Abroad there'll be nicer beaches and the sea is warmer, the beach will be warmer, there'll be sand." Sentiments echoed by another girl with three years more experience of these matters: "Abroad you get a better suntan than you would here." Yet the harsh truth is that only 37 per cent of the sample

have already travelled abroad, compared with the total of 79 per cent who still want to go for a first or subsequent time.

Parents also have much to learn about family democracy. In 34 per cent of the cases, the decision on where to go is taken by "Mum or Dad only", while the children hold sway in only 16 per cent of households. Girl aged 12: "Well, my parents decide where to go and ask us if we'd like to go there." Girl aged nine: "We have this quiz, who goes where, and my Dad normally wins."

Aeroplanes are the most popular means of getting there, with 47 per cent of the vote, followed by hovercraft (27), ship (16), train (eight), car (six) and coach (one). Sea travel, of course, has its problems, as this 12-year-old girl explains so graphically: "You start to get excited, I love going on ferries, then you start to get ill."

Taking all forms of travel together, only 27 per cent said they feel sick - in some cases, like this boy of 11, for unexpected reasons: "Setting off you start feeling sick sometimes because you are so bored and can't wait."

Among girls, hotels emerge as the favourite accommodation, for excellent reasons such as these, both from 12-year-olds: "A hotel is posh, you meet new people"; and: "In a hotel

you get room service, if you make a mess it's all cleared up for you." Boys share the judgment, but only with a figure of 39 per cent compared with the girls' 53 per cent.

For both genders, a camp site is second choice and a villa third.

The top five desiderata at hotels are swimming pool, restaurants and bars, indoor games, nice beds and outdoor games. "Fitted carpets and a waiter to bring my food by the pool," says a 10-year-old girl. "Marble tiles in the corridors so I can make a noise with my shoes," says a male contemporary.

Ice cream tops the list of favourite holiday fare (only two per cent declaring it "horrid"), but all the other popular options (fish and chips, soup, fried chicken and french bread) score in the high eighties or nineties. In the hate poll, salsas just oustrip frogs legs, with octopus only slightly less loathsome.

The ten "most fun activities" are, in order: staying up late, swimming in a pool, playing on the beach, going to an adventure playground, attending parties/barbecues, swimming in the sea, playing with other English children, boating and water sports, going to discos and eating in a restaurant.

Less fun activities include going for a drink with Mum and Dad, watching parades and playing in hotel lifts.

While away, only 36 per cent miss home, 60 per cent do not, and four per cent are uncertain. Most sorely missed by one respondent is "Fox the cat, Bramble my best Teddy, and my bed." The quote is not attributed, but with altered names, the sentiments are infinitely transferable.

Mr Andrew Barrett, marketing director of Cooks, believes that his company, thus armed, will be better able to point the undecided parent, or indeed child, in the right direction. As you read this, he himself is travelling to Disneyland with his two young children, who have been pressing him for an answer to the question: "How big are the Mickey Mouses and do they move about?" Meanwhile, I am going to the Lake District for the umpteenth time, to stay with my wife's seven-year-old god-daughter. I do hope her parents are there, since chatting to them is high on my list of fun activities. My daughter, who is five, longs to stay there year after year, which is fortunate.

One reason for this - not the main one I hope - is that the older girl has a splendid wardrobe of dresses which devolve to her as the most radiant of hand-me-downs. But that, I suppose, is cheating.

COMMENT

Hooray for Hackney

As I walked home along the canal in the blazing sunshine, I thought how pleasant it was to live in this part of London. In view was a duck with eight ducklings, little boys fishing, grandparents walking pretty little ladies, and lovers dawdling. Where was I? I discovered that I have been happily living for the past eight years in a "no-go" area for almost all except those compelled to remain there, according to Gerald Kaufman, in his column last Monday, and Paul Harrison, who has written a book called *Inside the Inner City*. What? Can this be Hackney, hub of the universe?

Can this be the place I moved to because I like it, where I could afford a house, and where the services were good? Far from fleeing the place, I propose to stay in Hackney for the rest of my days. Not only can I walk to work, I can take any one of seven bus routes. The service is intermittent (as in the rest of London) but there is also the secret railway from Dalston Junction to Richmond, and the newly opened Kingsland station. Within a few moments walk of my gracious Hackney home I have two excellent public libraries, though I attend, and a number of friendly shops.

All hours of the day and night appear to be worked and these are also the hours I walk about the place, returning home from the theatre and parties in the middle of the night without coming to any harm. I have been burgled twice. The second time, with the aid of my neighbours, the police caught the burglars. The household in London which has not been burgled is a fortunate one.

My house, which was indeed in a sad state when I bought it, has been put in order by me. When I moved there in 1975 there were six derelicts within 200 yards. Now there are none - all have been repaired.

The bombed site opposite has been filled with council houses - not a dreary block, but a reasonable imitation of a London town house. I like the street markets, the frenetic activity of Ridley Road, the garden market on Sundays.

On Sundays the congregation at Mass reflects the population - Irish, English, Italian, Portuguese, black. That variety is what keeps a neighbourhood alive. In Hackney we frighten the children with tales of dark satanic mills in Mr Kaufman's constituency of Gorton, Manchester. None of us has ever set foot in the place.

"Pelican, £3.95.

Philippa Toomey



TALKBACK

Working with a baby in the house

Margery Roberts wrote

last week of the impossibility of mixing a career with bringing up children

From Audrey Macleod, 94 Woodwards Road, Dulwich
Now Mrs Roberts (First Person, August 19), get your hands out of that bucket of Nappies and put aside your baby wipes. Widen your thinking and be glad you are able to look after your healthy, active kids yourself, for a career plus nanny/granny would undoubtedly treble your anxieties. Relax and enjoy your small children now while at the same time working to change some of your inflexible attitudes.

May I suggest a modest survival kit. First, decide on priorities and job-share some of these with your husband, and secondly aim for a tiny oasis of free-time each day, however scant, and guard it.

Keep your own interests going and your friends (the ones who accept you as you are, and be selfish and spoil you often) this way you will be better able to meet the unending demands of others without feeling permanently deprived.

Rejoice the grudging "I suppose I shall have to resign myself to motherhood alone" by a more informed and positive approach. You could see yourself as entering an enriching period of growth and emotional development.

From Mary R. Lamberton, 48 The Avenue Kew, Surrey
I am a visitor from America. May I suggest to Margery Roberts that others do it without the aid of nannies or mothers-in-law.

I have two children aged eight and five and I have been working for five years for a magazine publisher in Washington, D.C. I can do this for the following reasons:

1 An employer who is willing to hire me for 20-30 hours a week paying my salary on an hourly basis.
2 A school which offers day care after regular school hours until 6pm. Actually, I have never used this myself or I like to come home with the children, but it is a valuable service.

3 A short commute which is only ten minutes in my case.

4 A job which one can perform outside the office. Primary times for a mother are Saturdays when fathers can take over and evenings and early mornings when children are asleep. This flexibility is important when chickpeas appear.

5 Domestic help. I have a daily

once a week which maintains my sanity and minimum standards.

6 A supportive husband: The advantages of being a working mother outweigh the demands from home and office.

From Mrs Jennifer White, 9 Birch Way, Chesham, Buckinghamshire
Margery Roberts is right - the only way a mother can work is to abandon her child to someone else.

However, I must object to her slur on child-minders. As a minder for the past five years, I feel it my duty to point out that we are registered by the council, our houses are checked for safety and first-aid provision and we are limited to three pre-school children at any one time.

We have an area supervisor, regular meetings and access to a toy library. We aspire towards being semi-professionals. Generally, our press image has improved since the "babby farm" scandals of the sixties, and rightly so.

We are not simply second best to a nanny. In fact, we have some advantages over the nanny, apart from being cheaper. Child-minders are usually mothers themselves and are used to children, indeed we enjoy their company.

From Mrs Susan Hawke, 24 Caverside Road, Great Glen, Leicestershire
Margery Roberts misfires much of my own experience. After 13 years at home with under-fives I know that I would be incapable of combining a career and the care of my family with any degree of success or semblance of sanity.

I count myself fortunate. My husband's salary is sufficient to enable me to stay at home to care for the family and although our lifestyle is, relatively, simple we have no genuine need for a second income.

But let us spare a thought for the unsung heroine of the low-income or single-parent family. She often has no such choice and is forced to work

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

● EASY GLIDER:

How safe is hang-gliding now? why more women are taking it up.

● TRAVEL:

The present appeal of Syria's past; Carnival time in the Caribbean;

● FAMILY MONEY:

How much should your mortgage cost you?

● SPORT:

Cricket - the Fourth Test Match; football - preview of the season's opening matches.



No surrender

Where is the instrument of surrender signed by Major-General Jeremy Moore and General Menendez in the Falklands? Ian Kerr, who is marketing framed reproductions of a contemporary photocopy at £19.90 each, says no one can tell him the whereabouts of the original. It is officially denied that Moore has it, though the late Lord Montgomery certainly kept for the rest of his life the surrender signed at Luton Heath. That document passed to the Imperial War Museum, with Monty's caravan and other papers, after his death. "Is the Falklands surrender on Maggie's doo door?", Kerr asks irreverently. My PHSnook in Downing Street sneaked a look, and it's not.

Bitter

The Campaign for Real Ale has declared war on an International Lager Festival, and banned its promoters, Watney Mann and Truman, from next month's Great British Beer Festival in Birmingham. There is indeed little international about the lagers featured. Carlsberg is brewed in Northampton, and Fosters and Holsten Draught come from Morlake. Holsten Dian Pils is brewed in Hamburg, but bottled at Isleworth. Lagers brewed here are weaker than their continental counterparts and, though they thus pay less duty, their price is 10p to 15p a pint more than is charged for the more flavoursome and traditional English bitter. The British Beer Festival organizer, Tim Webb, says: "Watney's are cynically using the festival idea to promote lagers only weeks before taking part in the biggest festival of traditional British beers. We could not let them get away with it." I'll drink to that.

In California, a PHS report, there is a French restaurant next door to a dealer in gemstones. They are jointly called Chic-by-Jewel.

Shrinking

As a bookseller Sigmund Freud has come a little closer to my office. His likeness, sculpted by Lyn Kramer, presided for years behind the counter of Bernard Stone's shop in Covent Garden. Now Stone has brought Siggy, as old customers know him, to Lambeth's Conduit Street, Bloomsbury, and just in time for the street fair. New customers mistake Freud for an uncooperative assistant, and complain of his extreme taciturnity. This will not change, I fear, when he is shortly joined by Leonardo da Vinci.

Skin deep

Here is another winning sausage joke, this one from Mrs F. M. Pelling of Much Hadham: A hen-pecked husband was sent to buy some steak. "Here you are, sir," said the butcher, "tender as a woman's heart." "In that case," replied the man, "I'll take a pound of sausages."

BARRY FANTONI



'But darling, they sell perfectly good hamburgers at Padstow'

Best of Spike

Pauline Scudamore of Upper Cheyne Row, SW3, is guaranteed a pretty funny mailing in the coming weeks. She is appealing for anecdotes to include in an authorized life of Spike Milligan. Milligan is at present in South Africa visiting an elephant he has adopted and named Mrs Thatcher, and only yesterday my colleague on the *Daily Mirror* was reminiscing that he once found Spike in the early hours in Soho, sitting alone in a large cubicle. When the lady who is now his wife was sent to Milligan as a temporary secretary, the first letter he dictated to her went: "Dear Pope, I am not going to be a Catholic any more if you do not stop experiments on animals. You semi-loyal servant, Spike." Yet when I attended a reunion of the Spike Milligan Old Comrades Association I was surprised how uncommunally they were: "Spike Milligan's wholly unreliable," one complained. "My invitation to this party gave completely the wrong address, and none of my friends here got one at all."

Michael Powmey, books merchandise controller for W. H. Smith, will be displeased to see this item. In the latest issue of the WES paper, *Newslink*, Powmey explains that it was only decided to stock the book *101 Uses for the Unemployed*, free which my illustration comes, because it would be "news" if they did not. "If we were to buy it", Powmey argues, "a lot more attention and sales would be drawn to the book than would otherwise happen". So instead they plan to "sell it but do nothing particular to promote it". And still they get attention.

PHS

George Brock on the problems of interpreting crime statistics

Mugging: what is the truth?

To judge by the confidence of the headlines which appear as a result of almost any official announcement, good or bad, about crime rates, the figures should command respect for their accuracy and authority. Percentages and unrounded numbers sound so scientific. But behind the headlines, such respect seems curiously lacking. Take Mr James Anderton, Chief constable of Greater Manchester, last year: "What precisely do the statistics tell us about the state of criminality in the nation and what do they suggest should be done about it? Very little, is the answer I would give."

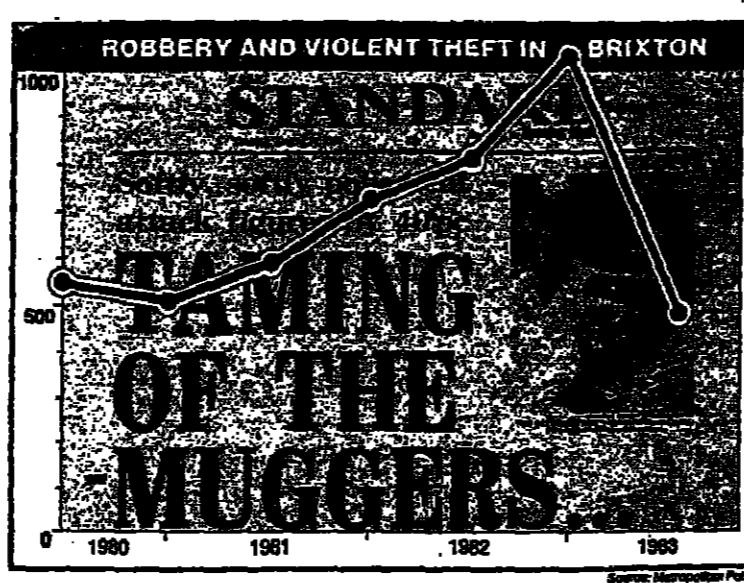
Or the Police Federation magazine, in the same year: "No informed person regards the existing criminal statistics as the most reliable indicator of the state of crime." Or the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, in the House of Lords: "So far as the statistics are concerned, I propose to say nothing, except that they are mostly misleading and very largely unintelligible."

Last week, the police in Lambeth released figures showing that crimes classified as "robbery" and "other violent theft" had fallen during the first six months of this year compared with the same period last year (see table). This swiftly translated into "Muggings down 40 per cent" in the headlines, with an accompanying gloss from local senior police officers: "I personally feel that we are winning the battle of Brixton", said one.

So far, the more moderate local organizations represented on the Lambeth Police Consultative Group have endorsed the police optimism and are eager customers for crime figures which they are given once a month. The black youths who continue to distrust the police and such committees remain, as before, on the outside.

Crime figures should be handled very gingerly. Mugging generates more political heat than any other crime, and is at the same time one of the most difficult to count precisely. Legally, there is no such thing, and the word is loosely used to refer to a host of different classifications which policemen and academics have used to sift crime reports and statistics. For the purpose of the most detailed internal analyses, Scotland Yard's G10 statistical branch defines mugging as "the offence of robbery of personal property in the open when there is no previous association between assailant and victim." (The standard definition of robbery automatically implies the use or threat of force.)

When senior officers wish to refer to mugging, they point to the



statistical categories "robbery" and "other violent theft," which draw in a much broader range of offences. They cover anything from a shotgun raid on a bank or shop to a purse snatching. This crudity inflamed the row over the Yard's decision to release figures for the colour of suspects in these categories alone. "The Yard blames black muggers", said one headline among many when the figures - which looked considerably less sensational with non-mugging robbery and theft subtracted - were announced.

In the case of Brixton during the first six months of this year, the local head of the CID, Chief Superintendent Ray Adams, is sure that the "middle band" of robberies - street robberies - is the one that has fallen as a result of new tactics in the area which include "targeted" surveillance of likely locations and suspects, more officers on the streets, and close attention to community cooperation. "It's an opportunist crime and we've cut down the opportunities," he said this week.

Other kinds of crime in Brixton, and the rest of Lambeth, have remained at much the same level as before, suggesting that the special attention given to street robbery recently may have had real effect. Whether the figures stay down will depend what lies behind the drop. Street robbers have sometimes turned out to be few in number but very active: a handful of people may commit dozens of offences. If the right hand have been caught, the effect on the statistics can be long lasting. If, however, extra policemen on the street are simply deterring robbers who are waiting for quieter

times; keeping up the deterrent means keeping up the policing level.

Since the end of last year, L division has enjoyed the services of 93 extra men and also benefited from the transfer of men to "home beat" duties from other jobs. The local commander, Mr Alex Macnich, readily admits that "I've been getting more than my cut of the cake."

Experiments elsewhere with special measures for particular crimes have sometimes simply driven the figures down by driving the criminals into the set of statistics next door. At the moment, it is impossible to tell whether or not L division's criminals have dispersed to other places where they will attract less attention and publicity. Equivalent figures are not available for neighbouring parts of south London. Other parts of L division than Brixton report generally stable crime rates, except Streatham, where robbery and other violent theft are slightly up. One Streatham residents' association has already complained that its interests are being neglected at the expense of its more famous neighbours.

There are more general reasons for scepticism in the face of crime figures. Academic studies have shown that the crimes which are reported are a fraction of those actually committed. The studies differ on the size of the "dark figure" of unreported crime, estimates ranging from five to 15 times the reported rate. Some crime "rises" appear to reflect only a rise in the number of crimes which the police are told about. A recent Home Office study suggested that during the 1970s the rate of burglary stayed

almost level, while the number of reported burglaries rose steadily - a change perhaps explained by the rapid spread of home insurance policies which require break-ins to be notified to the police.

Other studies have shown that the rate of reported crime can fluctuate out of all relation to the real rate at which it is happening; others that the ways in which policemen write off certain incidents as "no crime" - a practice known as "cuffing" - varies enormously, from area to area. During the past 10 years, the ways in which local statistics were occasionally used to grab lurid headlines caused enough concern at the Home Office for the launching of several studies to correct some of the wider misapprehensions. Much more recently, sterner measures have been taken. Since this summer, local forces inside the Metropolitan Police may not release their own figures until the raw material of the crime reports has been forwarded to the central statistical experts for vetting.

This still leaves the process private and ill understood. The compilation and use of crime figures is becoming one of the elements in the accountability battle being waged between Scotland Yard and the GLC and boroughs which have established inquisitive police committees. The figures in Brixton have also been, and still are, a weapon in the post-Scarman debate inside the police about crime strategies.

When Scarman's post-mortem prescription first appeared, the police went on the offensive to discredit his proposals. The chairman of the Police Federation told his members that "saturation" policing was the only answer to mugging; muggings had doubled since the riots, said the *Daily Telegraph*; it was Britain's "top crime", said the *Daily Mirror*, and the Deputy Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard claimed that Scarman had undermined the police's ability to act decisively. All this has now faded into silence and been replaced by an optimistic "softly softly" front, and cautious celebration of the new figures.

None of this is likely to satisfy the voices calling for greater accountability for the Metropolitan Police, who would like, among other things, the power to examine and vet the machinery which turns out crime figures. In the words of Walter Easby, head of Camden Council's police committee support unit: "The police are a huge nationalized industry. What other one of those would let so much activity go by without proper accountable auditing?"

David Watt

Giving the voters what they want

The whole thesis is an exaggeration. If, for instance, the President got involved in what could plausibly be labelled a "Vietnam situation" in Central America, or if the economy completely collapsed again, things might become very difficult. And if the "nice guy" image became tarnished by some personal scandal they would look very different indeed - hence the apparently ludicrous amount of attention given to the "Debtgate" question of whether Mr Reagan was or was not party to the theft of Mr Carter's television notes in the 1980 election.

All this is true and seen realistic limits to Mr Reagan's popularity. But the fundamental point remains intact. The Atlantic alliance could fall apart, another Middle East war could break out, and another recession of quite serious dimensions be created under the Administration's monetarist aegis without reversing Mr Reagan's fortunes. People would simply say: "Well, OK, he's not the greatest, but he did his best and he's a hell of a nice guy."

The alternative response - and presumably the one that would be adopted by Mrs Thatcher - is that only disappointed Keynesians would delude themselves that Reagan will win in 1984 *in spite of* his policies. On the contrary, Reagan's popularity is due as much to his robust conservatism as it is to his boyish smile and winning ways. The American people, like the British, have cast off the shackles of liberalism and are now ready to applaud a leader who is publicly committed to rolling back the frontiers of the state at home and the menace of communism abroad.

But the trouble with offering this as the chief explanation of Reagan's popularity is that Reagan has been so bad at following his own prescriptions. Monetarism, low budgets, low taxation, "supply side" growth - all these have been tried and either found impossible or wanting, then rejected in favour of something else and then tried again - and all without producing the lasting prosperity that was originally promised. The American economy is at last having its boom but interest rates and unemployment are at fearful levels and nobody has any great confidence that it will last. As for all the anti-Soviet rhetoric, there is nothing to show for it except an over-swell defence budget which the Congress (not exactly insensitive to public opinion) has refused to pass. Moreover the internal relations of the Government are a shambles. Hardly a day passes without some press story of major rows.

The average American voter who observes all this cannot be expected to share the private view of most politicians and officials in Western Europe - namely that this is almost certainly the most dangerously incompetent American president since the Second World War. But he is aware that the Conservative promise of cool, profitable, minimal government could hardly be further from fruition. What saves the President from the fate of Jimmy Carter, who was actually more efficient, is the lack of a plausible Democratic opponent - and the national reverberations of an axe wielded on a California ranch by a nice guy in a lumberjack's shirt.

Philip Howard

Serving for a hole in one

If only I could get rid of the unforced errors, I should be a champion. The service is going better this summer. Well, put it this way: there are marginally fewer double faults, and the in-swinging first service delivered with a stiff arm and a hideous grimace has occasionally touched the line of the backhand court, and crashed into the net like a startled pheasant. But the backhand has developed a nervous and painful scoop that lobes the ball gently up towards the net; and the volleys have been flying off helplessly damp down the revolt.

But the fuses have been lit. Of course, fuses sometimes sputter and go out. All Pakistan is now waiting and watching to see whether this one has sputtered or whether it will ignite an explosion of popular resentment against six years of military government.

Michael Hamlyn

But the campaign now needs another nudge to keep it moving. The trade unions are standing on the sidelines before deciding how to react. Organized labour has been kept more or less quiet recently by one or two large wage settlements. Those to benefit include all government servants, a piece of bribery that may well cost a good deal in inflation later but removes a present possible cause of discontent.

President Zia has been lucky with the weather too. Good monsoon rains have dampened demonstrators' ardour, and the floods have given them plenty to do at home protecting their crops and houses.

And even in Sind, the regime's policy of restraint, which allowed the first day's demonstration to go off virtually unmolested by the security forces, and which has still prevented the imposition of curfews of however limited scope, may have helped damp down the revolt.

But the fuse has been lit. Of course, fuses sometimes sputter and go out. All Pakistan is now waiting and watching to see whether this one has sputtered or whether it will ignite an explosion of popular resentment against six years of military government.

The trouble about having a mother who won a Wimbledon doubles championship is that one thinks that tennis ought to come naturally by birthright, without coaching or practice. Every summer after watching the professionals at Wimbledon make it look easy, I think I am going to be a champion at last this year. Then on holiday I get out on the court, and fantasy gives way to reality and 0-40, set point, double faults. Are you quite sure it was out? Damn it.

Mind you, I blame the tools, like any bad workman. The racket is an obsolete pre-war make called "the Improved Phenomenon". It has lost a string or two at the edges, and has been warped by the Scotch mist of 50 summers into a lopsided and sinister irregularity like a grinning face. The court was home-made in 1931, when news of this strange new game had penetrated deepest Ayrshire, and everybody who was anybody in the county suddenly had to have a tennis court. The qualifications of a fine gentleman are to eat à la mode, drink champagne, dance jigs, and play tennis.

Thomas Shadwell in the seventeenth century. They are still trying up here in Ayrshire, without much success.

The result is that Poland's most talented film director - Wajda, Krysztof Zanussi, Jerzy Skolimowski - work as best they can abroad and the crisis of the country's cinema deepens. At home a commission including a director, a cameraman and a critic has been set up to recommend how the industry can be made profitable again. Film-makers and audiences are hoping that the commission not only comes up with appropriate answers but also asks the right questions.

Roger Boyes

The battered chicken netting is interlaced with brambles and wild raspberry canes, so that frivolous tennis players have been known to disregard a service completely while guzzling yellow raspberries on the baseline. This fecklessness (or sensible order of priorities) can drive the server to despair (at any rate two consecutive double faults). The balls disappear down the rabbit holes which have spread even inside the netting.

Visitors from Mars would consider it an odd ceremony for a grown man to take seriously. But that is true of most games. Sam Johnson observed: "It is unjust to claim the privileges of age and retain the placings of childhood". Too right, Sam. But we still carry on.

How Poland's silver screen has lost its glitter

It is 8pm, the cinema booking office has been shut for half an hour - "sold out", says the notice - and inside the first mind-deadening film of Iron, 41 feature films were produced in Poland: in 1983-84 only 20 to 25 will be made. This is partly a financial dilemma: equipment is outdated, new cameras and video equipment are needed but everything requires more hard currency than the film industry has. It does not even have many zloties. Thirty-one cinemas closed in 1981, 53 last year. Audiences are smaller.

In an attempt to attract people back to the cinema, the Poles are treated to a staple of historical and costume dramas, comedies and horror films. Some money is spent on Western films - *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *The Empire Strikes Back* are both showing in the capital - but only those guaranteed to draw the crowds and that do not ideologically offend are shown. Women turn into wolves, teeth are bared, eyeballs roll or pop out of their sockets, blood and tears flow in equal quantities. The film is very popular.

Some Polish critics say Poland's cinema has entered its worst crisis since the war, a crisis that has both economic and political roots. It is a smaller, more sharply defined,

model of what is happening in the country at large. In 1981, when Andrzej Wajda won a prize at Cannes for his *Man of Iron*, 41 feature films were produced in Poland: in 1983-84 only 20 to 25 will be made. This is partly a financial dilemma: equipment is outdated, new cameras and video equipment are needed but everything requires more hard currency than the film industry has. It does not even have many zloties. Thirty-one cinemas closed in 1981, 53 last year.

Audiences are smaller.

The best example of how standards of excellence are being subordinated to political expediency came last year with a decision not to show a film by Krzysztof Bugajski entitled *The Interrogation*. It depicted a woman, played by Krystyna Janda, who was arrested in the 1950s on trumped-up charges

and was brutally interrogated. It is essentially an historical film about a particularly dark period of Polish experience. According to a secret transcript of a meeting held in the Ministry of Culture after the showing of the film, most of Bugajski's peers praised its artistic quality but warned that "a film of such passion will evoke great passions in return". This was a damning criticism: anything that could stir up political emotions has been excised from cultural life.

The result is that Poland's most talented film directors - Wajda, Krysztof Zanussi, Jerzy Skolimowski - work as best they can abroad and the crisis of the country's cinema deepens. At home a commission including a director, a cameraman and a critic has been set up to recommend how the industry can be made profitable again. Film-makers and audiences are hoping that the commission not only comes up with appropriate answers but also asks the right questions.

Roger Boyes

متحف العجمي



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M MITTERRAND EXPLAINS

In his first major explanation of French policy in Chad, President Mitterrand has emphasized that French troops would not be restricted to "purely defensive retaliation" if attacked, and blamed Libya for escalating the fighting in the long civil war. This was a sensible acknowledgement that once seriously committed to military action, the French would find attack the best means of defence; it simultaneously warned Colonel Gaddafi that he should permit a peaceful settlement now rather than risk greater loss of face after a direct clash develops between French and Libyan troops.

By stating that while partition would be unacceptable, a federal solution might be possible and that he expected the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and United Nations to help arrange peace talks, President Mitterrand was making it easier for the Libyan leader to back down. But neither the OAU nor the UN have proved effective in such crises in the past. If it does come to war, Mitterrand has prepared the French public and answered his critics by pointing out that the slow buildup of French forces had both postponed the clash and revealed Libya to all as the aggressor.

The growing French involvement in Chad requires such delicate handling in both foreign and domestic policy that the president's reluctance to discuss issues fully in public is understandable. But his careful answers to questions agreed beforehand in an interview published yesterday in *Le Monde* have failed to silence complaints that the population is not being

properly informed about a situation which arouses threatening memories of long years of bloodshed in Indochina and Algeria. Media rivals see the interview as a reward for the sympathetic coverage *Le Monde* has given President Mitterrand, and feel with some justice that a more open statement of policy is called for.

Few Frenchmen trust fully President Hissene Habré as representing their interests in Chad, remembering as they do his hostility as a rebel less than a decade ago, when for three years he held hostage the French anthropologist Mme Françoise Claes. They fear that the presence of their troops may encourage him to launch a counter-offensive in the hope that the French would be compelled to increase their military commitment in restoring his position against Mr Goukouni Oueddei who, formerly, when President, also received French support.

According to a recent survey, little more than a quarter of those polled supported sending troops to Chad, while over half were opposed. President Mitterrand attempted to calm these fears by stressing that French troops would not be manipulated into participating in a counter-attack: "France will not allow itself to be led where it does not want to go". This protestation does not, of course, exclude a counter-attack if provoked by the Libyan-backed forces.

It is important for President Mitterrand that he should not appear to be acting for Washington, and the population is not being

ton in attempting to contain Colonel Gaddafi's expansionism. He regards negotiation, rather than military conflict, as the best way of settling the war while preserving France's commercial interests in Libya. Last week *Le Monde* reported that President Mitterrand was irritated at what he regarded as US pressure and had emphasized that French policy is made in Paris. Some of that irritation was still present in his latest statement when he commented that "the Americans have been much taken up with us; yes, very much".

This attitude helps deal with the left-wing critics who are particularly sensitive about accusations that a socialist government is pursuing in Africa the gendarmerie policy of Gaullist administrations. The Communists have voiced their anxiety about sending troops to Chad, but after pushing the Soviet line so strongly on the Geneva disarmament talks, they cannot expect to continue in government if they adopt too closely the Kremlin view that France is being edged by Washington into a "neo-colonial venture, a Vietnam, Chad-style".

President Mitterrand's exposition yesterday contained a tough message for Colonel Gaddafi, warning him to withdraw without causing further bloodshed. This will clearly be strongly opposed by Mr Goukouni Oueddei, who can expect to gain little at the peace table.

The Libyan leader is not famed for his moderation, but it is to be hoped that he will now realize that it is in his own best interests to respond in a reasonable way.

FAR AND FOREIGN CAPTIVITY

Overcrowded and ancient as they are, British prisons would rank respectably high in any Good Jails Guide compiled for the information of the cosmopolitan convict. At least in principle they accept the proposition that criminals are sent to prison as a punishment rather than for punishment, and that gratuitous harsh treatment is not an acceptable means of promoting a policy of deterrence. Prisons reflect the attitudes of the societies around them, and conditions that may appear rugged but humane to an Asian peasant may well seem intolerably rigorous to a western tourist who has been foolish enough to dabble in drugs. To the shared physical hardship is added the isolation of unfamiliarity with language and customs, and separation from friends and family. In some countries so little regard is paid to prisoners' rights that they are in constant danger of physical violence or untreated illness.

The simple individual remedy, of course, is not to get into trouble. But as international travel becomes easier the number of criminals who land themselves in prisons far from home is likely to increase. Such cases and the sympathy they sometimes arouse can become a significant irritant to good relations between countries, and

even a source of prejudice. The problem is complicated by the fact that sentences as well as conditions vary widely, according to how seriously different societies view each offence. This has been the chief stumbling-block to the development of the Council of Europe's convention on the transfer of prisoners to serve their sentences in their own countries, which was signed yesterday by Britain.

The drugs trade provides some of the most difficult cases. A number of countries near the sources of the illicit drug trade routes have introduced heavy penalties at the urging of the western countries which are the main markets. They might not unreasonably accuse western countries of discrimination when they call for severity, while urging leniency for their own citizens. But equally it is difficult for a country where possession of soft drugs is a minor offence to make a citizen serve a very long sentence for it, imposed by a foreign court.

The only kind of agreement that is likely to be acceptable must allow for a good deal of give and take. The Council of Europe's convention is based on the principle that all three parties – the sentencing state, the prisoner's homeland and the prisoner himself – should agree

to each transfer. A homeland asking for repatriation will have to make clear in advance the conditions on which it is ready to take the prisoner (including what it means to do about remission, parole, and so on). In agreeing to the transfer the sentencing country will accept these terms. Difficulties would arise if one country considered that the prisoner had discharged his debt to society, while the other regarded him as liable to further penalties. There is room for friction here, but also for compromise.

For many prisoners, including some of the most harshly treated, the convention will be irrelevant – for those held for offences that are not regarded as offences at all at home, for instance and those held without trial, like Mr Kenneth Carmichael, held in Saudi Arabia for debt since 1981. The 16 countries which have signed do not include several where the problem is particularly acute, though the Home Secretary plans to seek bilateral agreements with others. But the convention is a step towards the creation of an international presumption that offenders abroad should not have the penalties imposed by the courts multiplied by the isolation and even hazards of captivity far from home.

FLIGHT PATH TO THE LAW COURTS

British Airways makes its first move in court today in its attempt to get a legal ruling against the Civil Aviation Authority. The authority has granted British Midland Airways a licence to run a shuttle service between Heathrow and Belfast in competition with British Airways' service. Midland is already challenging BA on the Edinburgh and Glasgow shuttles and has taken away a third of its market. Another airline, Dan-Air, has predatory eyes on BA's Heathrow-Manchester shuttle. The competition is threatening BA's domestic profitability. It wants to stop the rot – by stopping the competition.

The 1980 Civil Aviation Act requires the CAA when considering applications for licences to have regard "to the effect on existing air transport services provided by British airlines" of authorizing any new service. The airline argues that if the CAA

had had regard to the fact that more duplication of shuttle services would push BA's domestic services into deficit it could not reasonably have authorized it. But the courts usually take a lot of persuading to substitute their own view for that of a statutory body in these "duty-to-have-regard-to" cases. It is a long-shot law suit, a measure of BA's lack of confidence that if it took the normal route of appeal, which is to the Secretary of State, its profits would weigh more heavily with that umpire than the benefits to the customer of a spot of competition.

Lord King, chairman of British Airways, vigorously defends his recourse to law. "It is my job," he has told *The Times*, "to protect my business, and because it happens to be owned by the taxpayer that does not mean that I am not going to seek the protection the law offers me. As far as I am concerned I operate

proven record of disruption but because of sometimes erroneous or speculative information about their private or political activities.

The personal information collected about an individual should be accurate, obtained lawfully, relevant to the purpose to which it was collected (e.g. job performance) and not disclosed in a manner incompatible with that purpose are some of the principles set out in the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with Regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, which the Government hopes to ratify when the Data Protection Bill passes through its remaining stages in the forthcoming session of Parliament.

The individual concerned does not have the right to check whether the information is accurate, and sometimes it is not. This information transfer can and does ensure that these persons are unable to obtain employment not because of any lack of ability to do the work or

inaccurate and irrelevant information. Many of these records are held manually and therefore are not covered by the Bill. The Data Protection Registrar will be charged with enforcing the Act. However, with only 20 staff to deal with tens of thousands of computerised personal information systems he will be unable to be an effective monitor.

Thus a Bill which purports to protect personal privacy, will not prevent the increasing use of "monitoring" or "blacklisting" systems and increased intelligence gathering about political beliefs and opinions as we enter 1984.

Yours faithfully,
MARIE STAUNTON,
Legal Officer,
National Council for Civil Liberties,
21 Tabard Street, SE1,
August 14.

Unfortunately, the Bill in its present form will not safeguard people who lose jobs through

Heart of dilemma for the Liberals

From Mr Michael Meadowcroft, MP for Leeds West, (Liberal/Alliance)

Sir, Bernard Levin's article today (August 24) on the Liberals contained too many mischievous half-truths and glosses to answer individually without missing the heart of the genuine dilemma that has always faced political parties, and which is far more acute when social and economic conditions are as serious as they currently are.

That dilemma is simply stated: should a political party hide or fudge the truth as it sees fit for the sake of electoral success, and then hope that the public will not notice or will not mind if it says one thing and does another? Or should it present its analysis and its programme, even if unpopular, and seek to persuade the electors of its validity?

Roy Hattersley, for instance, now appears to subscribe to the former view. He regularly intones that Labour "has a moral duty to win next time", i.e., any package that can remove Mrs Thatcher from office deserves Labour support. Bernard Levin, and a number of other commentators, also believe that electoral success is paramount and that any debate on strategy and priorities risks offending the tender susceptibilities of our gentle and delicate electors.

For every Bernard Levin enjoining a scrupulous tendency towards populism there are a thousand electors telling canvassers that politicians are all the same, saying one thing before an election and another after it. If Mr Levin has his way that electoral cynicism will be given an additional boost by Liberals and will further delay the day when this country grapples with the reality of our present crises.

My view is that the public desires consistency, respects integrity, and resents being conned. The electorate rejected the left-Labour alternative at the election not because it was highly ideological but because it neither rang true nor appeared competent. The question for a party, as well as for the commentators and for the public, is the relevance of its ideology not its existence.

Those many thousands of people who join the Liberal Party and who give their skills, energy and resources without visible reward are by definition not individuals who are likely to sit and wait for a party "line" to be passed down from on high – however much respect and affection they have for David Steel.

They tend to be interested in the formulation and promotion of ideas and there is an appropriate structure

Defence review

From Colonel James Ferguson

Sir, Your leader, "Rethink on the Rhine" (August 17) does the subject less than justice. To discuss the defence of the central region of Allied Command Europe without a mention of US forces, either in place or as reinforcements, or of the Allied air forces makes the analysis somewhat incomplete.

Neither is justice done to the major contribution made by the Federal Republic to the defence of the region, namely 12 well-equipped divisions and, after mobilization, a Territorial Army of 500,000.

It is true, however, that there has been a reluctance by West Germany to flex the military and political muscles concomitant with her economic power and geographic location. But it is to be said that where this characteristic has been apparent it has been welcomed, not least by those who have painful memories of the exercise of German military power.

Dumping at sea

From Dr L. E. J. Roberts, FRS

Sir, Mr David McTaggart (August 16) criticises me for defending the position adopted by successive UK/BRITISH Governments on radioactive waste disposal in the deep ocean. In fact, this position is soundly based on technical and scientific observation and analysis.

It is not enough for Mr McTaggart to indulge in general criticisms of the "gaping holes" of the careful international assessments that have been made whenever gaps in knowledge were recognised in the scientific work undertaken by the International Atomic Energy Agency before the very low limits allowed under the London Convention were agreed. It is a hard fact that none of the samples of fish or other marine organisms taken at the dump site has shown any increase in radioactivity above the increase found in any other area of the Atlantic.

The expert group convened by the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD reported clearly in 1980 that no hazard would arise from these operations. The London Convention itself requires that proposals for change should be supported by fresh

scientific evidence. No such evidence relevant to the North Atlantic was produced in support of the resolution in February, 1983, referred to by Mr McTaggart. A further meeting of the NEA was held in May, after the London Convention meeting, to examine the scientific evidence relating to the use of this site; this again concluded that the objections to its use were without foundation.

With respect, Sir, a detailed scientific controversy cannot be conducted satisfactorily in the correspondence columns of *The Times*.

The international experts who have taken part in these assessments have published their methods and arguments in full. Mr McTaggart should equally publish his criticisms in detail so that they can be evaluated point by point.

We would, of course, reconsider our policy if fresh evidence pointed to significant hazard arising from these disposal operations; no such evidence has emerged.

Yours faithfully,
L. E. J. ROBERTS, Chairman,
Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste
Executive,
AECL Harwell,
Oxfordshire.

Islington finances

From the Deputy Leader of Islington Council

Sir, Lord Harris of Greenwich's attack on Islington Council (feature, August 9) contained a number of glaring errors of fact concerning its support for the *Islington News* co-operative. The co-operative is being given help by the council as a result of a detailed feasibility study that suggested the co-operative would be a sound commercial venture and would create 12 jobs. The *Islington News* will not be a "council newspaper" but an independent publication that will be free to criticise the council and its policies.

Mr George Cunningham, former SDP MP for Islington South and Finsbury, wrote on March 25 to Mr B. H. Skinner, the district auditor for the metropolitan district, asking him to enquire into the *Islington News* co-operative, with special reference to his alleged claim that the local Labour Party would have a

representative on the editorial board. Mr Skinner replied on June 21 and told Mr Cunningham that, on the contrary, financial assistance to the co-operative would be made subject to a number of conditions, including one that there would be "no political party having representation on the editorial and advisory board of the *Islington News*".

Mr Skinner also quoted a resolution of the council's Employment (Grants and Financial Assistance) Subcommittee of April 19 to the effect that "the subcommittee will not consider applications for financial assistance from organisations with party political affiliations and the Employment and Development Committee be requested to concur with this decision". This is now the policy of the council.

Lord Harris is misinformed about the nature of the grants to the co-operative. The council is giving a grant of £17,000 over the two years towards the cost of premises, which

the council will own and for which the co-operative will pay rent. A grant of £20,000 to buy printing equipment is being made to the Islington Co-operative Development Agency under section 137 of the Local Government Act, which will lease the equipment to the *Islington News*.

The *Islington News* co-operative is being funded from several sources, including the Government's own small firms loan guarantee scheme. My council's assistance to the co-operative is conditional on a loan from the Government's agency.

In the past full year the council and central Government, under the partnership powers of the Inner Urban Areas Act, have given grants totalling £412,000 to more than 50 local businesses, 15 of them co-operatives.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE VENESS, Deputy Leader,
Islington Council,
Town Hall,
Upper Street, N1.
August 23.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE

August 25: The Queen was represented by Colonel William Bram (her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for County Down) at the funeral of Sir Francis Evans (formerly Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Buenos Aires) which was held at St Patrick's Church, Drumbeagh, Northern Ireland, this morning.

The Duke of Gloucester is 39 today.

A memorial service for Sir George Leeds, Bt, will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Thursday, November 3, at noon.

Birthdays today

Kenneth Barnes, 61; Mr Frank de T. Major-General N. L. Lester, 74; Mr Christopher Isherwood, 79; Ian McGregor, 61; professor Brian Magrath, 76; Sir Hugh Parry, 72; Mr Malcolm Pirnie, 61; Viscount Runciman of Doxford, 75; Miss Alison Sudholz, 37; Gerald Thorley, 70; General Sir Terry Fox, 66; the Right Rev. M. P. Wood, 67.

Acup and Hawkenstall Grammar School

Michaelmas Term begins on August 1. Term ends December 31. The twentieth anniversary reunion will be held on September 10-11. The main musical production, *Robert and Elizabeth* with Andrew Horsfall and Janet Lancaster in the leading roles, will be presented from November 3 to 9. Heads of schools Darren Bentley and Lesley Brill.

Marriage

Mr R. W. Digby and Mrs S. R. McLaren. The marriage took place in London yesterday between Mr Henry Digby, son of late Mr Robert and Mrs Digby, and Mrs Rosalie McLaren, elder daughter Major and Mrs Richard Atkinson-Turner, of Worlington, Suffolk.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev P. W. Allen, Curate of Shipton Under Wychwood, Oxfordshire, to Vicar of Mattock, Herefordshire.

The Rev C. Andrew Walker, Team Vicar of Totternhoe Ministry, diocese of Winchester, to be Rector of The Stationers' Chapel, London.

The Rev K. Barnes, Vicar of St Luke, Liverpool, to be Rector of St George, Chichester, same diocese.

The Rev R. W. Barnes, rector of Kington, Herefordshire, to be Vicar of St Nicholas, Worcester, same diocese.

The Rev S. J. Batten, Vicar of Stokesay, Herefordshire, to be Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Hereford.

The Rev J. G. Bevan, Curate of St Peter's, Cardiff, Glamorgan, to be Rector of All Saints, Filton, Bristol.

The Rev D. J. Cawley, Priest-in-Charge of St Nicholas, Gloucester, to be Vicar of St Peter's, Gloucester.

The Rev R. A. E. Chappell, Vicar of St Mary, Paddington, London, to be Priest-in-Charge of Long Sutton, with Long Leas, church of Archdeaconery of Lincoln, diocese of Lincoln.

The Rev R. J. Collier, Rectory of Ardingly, Surrey, same diocese.

The Rev J. G. Eggle, Rector of Chelmsford, Essex, to be also an Honorary Canon, Winchester Cathedral.

The Rev G. R. Finch, Team Vicar of Whitchurch Deanery, Shropshire, to be Priest-in-Charge of Whitchurch, Bristol, same diocese.

The Rev J. Lloyd, Vicar of Kingsgate, Herefordshire, to be Priest-in-Charge of Hereford, same diocese.

The Rev H. J. Lloyd, Priest of Minster Abbott, with Cheshunt and Ashtead.

Latest wills

Actress leaves £65,345

Daphne Heart, whose real name was Mrs Della Burns, of Clifton, Bristol, the actress who played "Mrs Foo" in the BBC television series *To The Manor Born*, left estate valued at £65,345 net.

Miss Ethel Margery Turner, of Carrick Hill Crescent, Sheffield, left estate valued at £522,339 net. After other bequests she left the residue to divided between the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Methodist Homes for the Aged and the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

Mrs Elsie Emily Gunn, of Fitzalan Avenue, Kensington, West London, left estate valued at £17,917 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Science report

Forgers tempted by inflation

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

As inflation continues, it is not just the usual objects of art that rise in value, but also early scientific instruments. Microscopes, barometers, quadrants and nocturnals are becoming excellent investments for the connoisseur. But they are also tempting forgers to imitate them.

According to Dr Gerard J.E. Turner, of the Museum of the History of Science at Oxford, the growing number of imitations has caused museum curators trouble in establishing authenticity.

He describes the problems in the September issue of the quarterly journal, *Interdisciplinary Science Review*, in which he presents a study of scientific instruments, including originals, imitations, reproductions and reconstructions.

He says that during the past 20 years, monetary inflation has led some people to buy systematic investigations of

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. C. Clark

and Miss V. J. Charteris. The engagement is announced between Paul Charteris, elder son of Mr and Mrs F. G. Clark, of Seatham, London, and Virginia, youngest daughter of the late Hugo Charteris and of Mrs Charteris, of The Elms, Bubwith, Selby, Yorkshire.

The Duke of Gloucester

is 39 today. A memorial service for Sir George Leeds, Bt, will be held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, on Thursday, November 3, at noon.

Birthdays today

Mr C. Isoglu and Mrs M. Hammond. The marriage will take place shortly in Greece between Costas Isoglu and Minnie Hammond.

Mr R. P. Jeynes, RAEC,

and Miss P. M. Bruce-Kerr. The engagement is announced between Richard Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. J. Jeynes, of Hinckley, Leicestershire, and Phillipa Mary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Bruce-Kerr, of Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Mr C. J. Maxwell

and Miss E. Davies. The engagement is announced between Christopher James, young son of Mr and Mrs A. C. Maxwell, of Pepperdine Cottage, Buriton, Oakham, Rutland, and Elaine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Davies of Stoneleigh, Walditch, Bridport, Dorset.

Captain W. A. Shuttleworth

and Mrs B. M. Owen. The engagement is announced between William Ashton Shuttleworth, 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own), son of the late Lieutenant Commander John Ashton Shuttleworth, DL, RN, and Belinda Mary, daughter of Mr John M. Gray, CBE, and Mrs Gray, of Blairlodge, Dundrum, co Down.

Mr H. B. Digby

and Mrs S. R. McLaren. The marriage took place in London yesterday between Mr Henry Digby, son of late Mr Robert and Mrs Digby, and Mrs Rosalie McLaren, elder daughter Major and Mrs Richard Atkinson-Turner, of Worlington, Suffolk.

Marriage

Mr R. W. Allen and Mrs S. R. McLaren.

The marriage took place in London yesterday between Mr Henry Digby, son of late Mr Robert and Mrs Digby, and Mrs Rosalie McLaren, elder daughter Major and Mrs Richard Atkinson-Turner, of Worlington, Suffolk.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev P. W. Allen, Curate of Shipton Under Wychwood, Oxfordshire, to Vicar of Mattock, Herefordshire.

The Rev C. Andrew Walker, Team Vicar of Totternhoe Ministry, diocese of Winchester, to be Rector of The Stationers' Chapel, London.

The Rev K. Barnes, Vicar of St Luke, Liverpool, to be Rector of St George, Chichester, same diocese.

The Rev R. W. Barnes, rector of Kington, Herefordshire, to be Vicar of St Nicholas, Worcester, same diocese.

The Rev S. J. Batten, Vicar of Stokesay, Herefordshire, to be Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Hereford.

The Rev J. G. Bevan, Curate of St Peter's, Cardiff, Glamorgan, to be Priest-in-Charge of Long Sutton, with Long Leas, church of Archdeaconery of Lincoln, diocese of Lincoln.

The Rev D. J. Cawley, Priest-in-Charge of St Nicholas, Gloucester, to be Vicar of St Peter's, Gloucester.

The Rev R. A. E. Chappell, Vicar of St Mary, Paddington, London, to be Priest-in-Charge of Long Sutton, with Long Leas, church of Archdeaconery of Lincoln, diocese of Lincoln.

The Rev J. Lloyd, Vicar of Kingsgate, Herefordshire, to be Priest-in-Charge of Hereford, same diocese.

The Rev H. J. Lloyd, Priest of Minster Abbott, with Cheshunt and Ashtead.

Latest wills

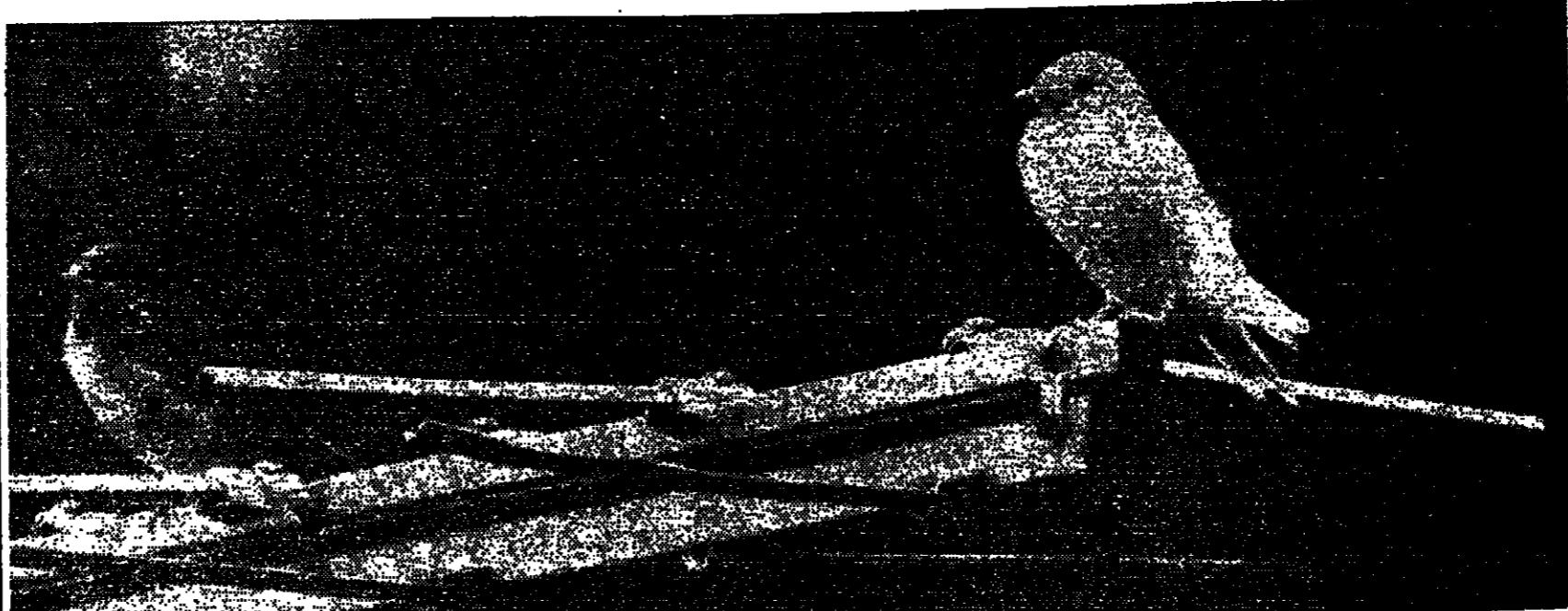
Actress leaves £65,345

Daphne Heart, whose real name was Mrs Della Burns, of Clifton, Bristol, the actress who played "Mrs Foo" in the BBC television series *To The Manor Born*, left estate valued at £65,345 net.

Miss Ethel Margery Turner, of Carrick Hill Crescent, Sheffield, left estate valued at £522,339 net. After other bequests she left the residue to divided between the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Methodist Homes for the Aged and the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

Mrs Elsie Emily Gunn, of Fitzalan Avenue, Kensington, West London, left estate valued at £17,917 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):



Rare bird: A young white swallow in a barn at a farm near Ringwood, Hampshire. A pure albino is sufficiently uncommon to interest ornithologists. The Royal Society for Protection of Birds says that there are no accurate statistics, but on average, no more than one sighting a year is reported. Birds with whole or part white plumage tend to be mobbed by their fellows and are conspicuous targets for birds of prey.

Tory clones claim by teachers

By Lucy Hodges

Education Correspondent

The Conservative Party has been caught trying to impose an education policy on its MPs, and the MPs are exposed as "clones", in a survey published today by the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

This glimpse into the party's tactics at election time result from a gaffe by Mr Peter Horsey, MP for Horsham, who replied to the association's election questionnaire by sending a photocopied sheet on which he had written: "I agree with these answers."

The sheet was headed, "General Election 1983: Questions of Policy 251: Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association Questionnaire", and bore the imprint, "Printed and Published by Conservative Central Office, 32 Smith Square". It gave Conservative candidates a text for formulating their answers.

The association now understands why 12 other MPs, including Sir Michael Havers and Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, gave exactly the same replies.

Thirteen MPs were happy to seem to be giving personal replies to a questionnaire sent to them by local electors, when in reality they were parroting answers drafted by an anonymous Smith Square scribe, said Mr Peter Smith, the association's deputy general secretary.

Mr Smith writes in the association's magazine, *Report*, published today: "How do constituents get to know MPs as individuals? By reading the newspaper?"

The furniture came after publication in March of a working group report on technology, growth and employment, which suggested that the roots of opposition to new technologies sometimes go beyond technical considerations.

But some academics fear that the projects, to be paid for by the Department of Trade and Industry, could amount to an exercise in opinion management.

The principal objectives of the programme, as laid down by the department, is to formulate lessons for industry and government "on how to secure greater acceptance of new technologies by developing their positive aspect, and minimizing their negative aspects, from an enhanced understanding of the cultural and organizational determinants of public attitudes. Acceptance of new technologies at the workplace would be the main, but not the sole focus of the work".

The programme comes after publication in March of a working group report on technology, growth and employment, which suggested that the roots of opposition to new technologies sometimes go beyond technical considerations.

Applications have already been invited from selected research groups in the field for four projects: information technology and the organization; new communications technology and the consumer; comparative national assessments; and historical studies of the problem.

The possible political motivation behind the programme is not yet clear. Mr Alan Day, lecturer in industrial sociology at Oxford University,

Academics concerned by new technology research

By Paul Flather of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*

found it "very disturbing, similar to a Saatchi and Saatchi exercise".

He said: "It seems like an invitation to academics to do a bit of opinion management and there is enough of that around already. Many academics are going to feel uneasy and I am not sure what it will do for the credibility of the SSR."

Dr Roderick Martin, a sociology lecturer and a fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, said the work would be valuable.

"But some academics fear that the projects, to be paid for by the Department of Trade and Industry, could amount to an exercise in opinion management."

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THE ARTS

Cinema: David Bowie in London and Geoff Brown in Edinburgh

Savage and elusive study of cultural oppositions

Merry Christmas
Mr Lawrence (15)
Camden Plaza; ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Lords of Discipline
(15)

Plaza 2

Sir Laurens Van der Post calls *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence* "this great and deeply moving film, the only war film I have seen that penetrates deep into the origins and meaning of war"; and, since Sir Laurens wrote the original stories on which the film is based and (according to the credited script writer) worked on early versions of the scenario, he should know what he is talking about. Nevertheless he does rather overstate the case, and it might be fair to question whether the film is concerned with the origins and meaning of war at all, except to the extent that those origins reside in the cultural differences between peoples, which seem much more what the film is about.

Nagisa Oshima's films, but especially *The Ceremony* and *Empire of the Senses*, have all looked critically at Japanese character, society and tradition and the dangers of national preoccupation with death, with archaic codes of honour, with a jealous, hermetic, debilitating sense of racial identity. *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*, based on Van der Post's novel *The Seed and the Sower*, interwoven with the stories *A Bar of Shadow* and *The Sword and the Doll*, shows the Japanese in confrontation with people and ways of the West.

The setting is a prisoner-of-war camp in Java in 1942. The four main characters are neatly placed in quadrilateral opposition. On the Japanese side are the camp commandant, Captain Yonoi (Ryuichi Sakamoto), and his sergeant, Hara (Takeshi). Their English-speaking captives are Major Celliers (David Bowie), and Colonel Lawrence (Tom Conti), who was the first-person narrator of the original Van der Post books. Bridging the gulf of nationality, war, language and culture are spiritual and human connections.

From first sight, Captain Yonoi recognizes both a spiri-

tual and physical attraction to Celliers; the two young men share the same kind of purity and innocence, and also a sense of guilt. Celliers is haunted by a boyhood betrayal of his young brother; Yonoi was away from Japan at the time of an officers' revolt; before the war, and feels he deserted the comrades who were executed for their part in it. Older, and more resigned to life's demands for compromise, Lawrence and Hara find simpler and more human points of contact. Lawrence speaks Japanese and so is able to communicate in language if not in sentiment. Hara, from time to time succumbs to human frailties like getting drunk, making jokes and committing acts of kindness as well as cruelty.

The quadrangle offers a valid premise from which to explore the confrontation of opposing philosophies and wills and the human attractions which can remain stronger than national conflicts. In the event, though, the exploitation is confused by an excess of incident - beatings, cruelties, fasts, humiliation, challenges between captives and captor that look like the conventional stuff of PoW drama. The sexual origins of Captain Yonoi's curiosity about Celliers, too, now seem understated to the point of mystery.

Samuel Fuller's four-legged time-bomb

It is hardly tee-shirt weather in Edinburgh, but they are being worn just the same - the red ones scream "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence". (Oshima's film opened the festival last Saturday), the black ones shout "The Oshima Gang". Oshima double-bills dominate the afternoon schedules; despite some colour prints that have faded away to the hues of tired lobster, the films have provided much stimulation, taking us back to the Japanese director's beginnings in the early Sixties when he plunged local audiences into provocative stories of social turmoil and wielded the Cinemascope frame like a clenched fist.

But the festival's undisputed highlight so far has been Samuel Fuller's magnificent *White Dog*, mostly hidden away by its bemused American distributor, Paramount, since completion in 1981 (though it has since surfaced successfully in France). Paramount's perplexity was primarily caused by its subject-matter (derived from a story by Romain Gary: how do you market a film about a German shepherd trained by bigots to attack Blacks and successfully avoid controversy? Yet the true provocation of Fuller's film lies

not in its material (clearly anti-racist) but in its style. Fuller declares his allegiance to the most basic of cinematic tools: the intense close-up, the editing cut that yokes together contrasting viewpoints.

White Dog tosses us back and forth between the dog's fierce stare, the implacable eyes of the black animal trainer attempting the dog's re-education and a cheeseburger dangled at bait; the simple technique generates immense emotional power. Fuller also pulls off several virtuous thriller sequences, outlandishly concluding one of the dog's attacks with an out-of-camera mauling before a church stained-glass window representing St Francis. The script occasionally lags behind, though the right note of journalistic urgency is struck by the boyfriend of the dog's amazed new owner: "Come on, Julie, you've got a four-legged time-bomb!" Edinburgh is the ideal place for the film's British unveiling - in 1969, the film festival's Fuller retrospective spearheaded European appreciation of this dynamic cinema primitive.

Documentaries and independent films abound here; quality, as expected, seesaws hour by hour. Friedhelm Brückner's



Celliers (David Bowie) challenges Yonoi (Ryuichi Sakamoto) over the threatened execution of the British C.O. (Jack Thompson)

western characters he decided to "westernize" the script. It is hard to say whether this was a good idea: certainly the film now - surprisingly for Oshima - lacks any distinctive style, western or eastern.

Bowie as actor is at the best of times unpredictable, clearly always in need of confident direction. This character is a

chameleon, responding conscientiously to the needs of the moment (when Yonoi calls him "an evil spirit" he instantly leaps into that role, for instance) but never presenting a clear and consistent face on which we can fix Yonoi's yearning. The mysteries of the role are compounded by a peculiar and somewhat embarrassing little

move in 1964. The hymn-singing is naïve entertainment he lays on for his Japanese prison guards for no very discernible dramatic purpose. The professional attack and trio of Tom Conti's Lawrence only add to the shadows surrounding Bowie's role.

Oshima has always expressed a preference for using non-professional actors, which - apart from the obvious commercial advantages - may explain his choice of Bowie. Ryuichi Sakamoto, a slightly built and beautiful rock musician who is Japan's equivalent to David Bowie, and Takeshi, a thick-set and irreverent stand-up comedian with a tremendous following in Japan, give to a western audience the most impressive performances in the film. Of course it may be different in Japan (where the film is a huge box-office success); the audience is unaccustomed to war films which show the enemy at close quarters; it is hard to say whether this was a good idea: certainly the film now - surprisingly for Oshima - lacks any distinctive style, western or eastern.

The battle-scarred actor Sterling Hayden, subject of the documentary portrait *Pharos of Chaos*, looks from the Himalayas himself bearded, clothed in sackcloth and sandals, with a mind half-lost in its own personal universe. Two young German film-makers, Wolf-Eckart Bübler and Manfred Blank, visit Hayden's riverboat in France and record his ramblings on drink, his Hollywood career and his craven appearance before the Un-American Activities Committee. Once one edits out the interrogative noises, the repetitions and anecdotal cut-de-sacs, there is fascinating substance in Hayden's words; we have to do the editing ourselves, however, as the film-makers seem even more dishevelled than their subject.

Lords of Discipline offers us an American equivalent to the peculiar combinations of brutality and superstitious ritual that make part of the Samurai code. Based upon a partly autobiographical novel by Pat Conroy, it is located in a fictitious but not wholly fantastic military academy in Carolin-

nia in 1964. The hymn-singing is naïve entertainment he lays on for his Japanese prison guards for no very discernible dramatic purpose. The professional attack and trio of Tom Conti's Lawrence only add to the shadows surrounding Bowie's role.

Young Will (David Keith), with a greater sense of individuality and justice than his fellow cadets, begins to question the myth of honour-above-all when he discovers the existence of a hereditary secret Klan within the school, dedicated to extorting undesirables and in particular a black boy who has fearlessly defied the WASP traditions of the place.

The first Hollywood film directed by Franc Roddam, the British director of *Quadrophenia*, it is professionally made, gripping in narrative and very unpleasant. Grasping at the best of all worlds, it offers the audience a feast of sadistic thrills, while encouraging them to self-righteous disapproval of the perpetrators. The film is presumably only one of a series we must now anticipate following the success of *An Officer and a Gentleman* - from which the excellent leading actor, David Keith, is inherited. He has very

able character support from the stage veteran Robert Prosky and a cold-eyed villain, G. D. Spradlin, who is in private life an oil millionaire with an urge and talent to act. It is a curious footnote that the film was partly funded by the Royal Air Force, which refused to allow their premises to be used for its filming.

Peter Ackroyd

● The Haifa Municipal Theatre presentation of *The Soul of a Jew*, reviewed on Wednesday by Irving Wardle in Edinburgh, is to play at Riverside Studios from next Monday to Thursday.

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A film by Hans-Jürgen Syberberg starring Reiner Goldberg as Parsifal.
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Hilary Finch



Deborah Norton: infinite skill

parquet-pattern lino and dim watercolours have a mustiness you can practically smell.

Anthony Masters

Concerts in London

Northern Sinfonia/
Knussen/Fischer
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Robert Szidon's *The Ring of Eternity*, which was given its first performance at Wednesday's Prom, was commissioned not by the BBC but by Oliver Knussen, who conducted it. It is a most beautifully realized vision, suggested by the first lines of Henry Vaughan's poem *The World*: "I saw Eternity the other night/Like a great Ring of endless light..." Szidon says he has attempted to translate the details of Vaughan's opening lines into sound, but on a first hearing I was less aware of any literal equivalences than of a piercingly well-imaged panoply of sound, strikingly clear in outline.

The image of a ring seems less apt to describe what happens than that of an amphitheatre exchange: from the initial laying-out of piano, trumpet solo and wind chorus over strings, the impetus is continually shifted between the string group and the wind group.

Sweeping figurations accommodate power through close imitation (though the effect is not the single one of Ligeti's similar procedure but that of a positive, dramatic unfurling of each idea), and much play is made with an ecstatic, trill-like passage of thirds.

Over this antiphony are single-line passages for the nimble percussion, and important, strident duets for the pairs of horns and trumpets: in an

impressive moment just before the final climax, trumpets announce a rising theme in unison which is then split up with horns and drums added as if Vaughan's endless light were suddenly seen through a prism. The kaleidoscopic build-up of sound is then maintained until the last moment, though the effect of the sudden close is not to prolong the vision into eternity but to snatch it rudely from our eyes.

Oliver Knussen conducted a firm, coherent account of the score. The remainder of this concert, conducted by Ivan Fischer, was desperately undistinguished. In Imogen Cooper's account of Mozart's F major Piano Concerto, K459, there were many points of admirable musicianship, but her discursive playing had no sharp focus and she was continually undermined - as were Stravinsky and Beethoven elsewhere in the evening - by Fischer's crashingly obvious direction.

Nicholas Kenyon

Vasary/Hirst/
Langridge
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Janáček has made his last appearance at this year's South Bank Summer Music, and with him the spirit of Kamila Stösslová, the woman behind both the *Vixen* and the Second String Quartet.

On Wednesday she appeared as Zefka the gypsy girl, in a

performance of the *Diary of One who Disappeared* by Philip Langridge, Linda Hirst and Tamas Vasary which was utterly compelling in its fusion of meticulous, minutely observed detail and vibrant unpredictability.

It was a pity that the opportunity was missed to exploit the hall's facilities and grant for once Janáček's wish that this drama of dream, seduction and surrender "be sung in semi-darkness, if possible with reddish lighting"; and a pity, too, that the performers did not risk even longer, more eloquent pauses at crucial dramatic points.

But this was a performance of subtle flickering, volatile emotions, rather than of overtly dramatic strokes: in Mr Langridge's voice, passion would quiver through a portamento, tenderness blend into harmonic change, and muscle flex to the full only to carry the force of Janáček's arching "melodic curves of speech", as in his final power and resilient top C.

Linda Hirst's was a strange and strong-edged vocal characterization, with the three off-stage voices (Sarah Leonard, Judith Recs and Joyce Jarvis) providing, in their perfectly judged acoustic balance, a haunting distancing right at the drama's heart.

Dialogue, reflection and undercurrent were indivisibly shared in Mr Vasary's piano playing.

Hilary Finch

OPENING PERFORMANCES
Tales from HOLLYWOOD

The new play by Christopher Hampton. "A fascinating play about the colony of German writers who found themselves exiled in Tinseltown in the 1940s..." (Michael Billington, *Guardian*, at the play's premiere in Los Angeles last year)

NATIONAL THEATRE STANDEE (Olivier) From £10m on day-and-night basis Credit Cards 01 928 5933 5430 Low price previews: Tonight, Tomorrow, Mon-Wed at 7.15, Tues at 2.00 & 7.15. Opens Thurs at 7.00. Then Sept 5, 6, 7 (m&e), 14, 15 (Bargain Night), 21, 22, 23, 24 (m&e), 26, 27 Production is at The Bristol Hippodrome Oct 3 to 8

Television Complex frights

Walter Cronkite, who looks very much like a contemporary version of Big Brother, presented 1984 (BBC1) with that heavily portentous tone which seems typical of American television journalists. He also had his own brand of newsmanship: "Fame came late to George Orwell... What kind of man gave shapes and names to the darkest fears of our age? Certainly a complex man... And so he went on, adding the usual litany of bad news: Khomeini, Afghanistan, computer banks and torture in South America. Then his own computer produced from the photographs of six dictators a composite portrait of the Orwellian tyrant; the result was the face of a Mexican bandit. We need not fear computers as long as they show no signs of imagination.

As is often the case with American programmes which attempt to deal with Some Important Issues, it was interesting only for the fifth light which it cast upon contemporary American society. There are some a range of ingenious phrases, for example, which shield bureaucrats from ordinary life. An erosion is referred to as an "energetic disassembly"; one is no longer sacked but "selected out" or "debriefed". This was a programme, however, to be unswitched or deserted.

The sight of the Public Records Office, in Secret (BBC 1), would have kept Orwellians content for days; here was the next best thing to a Ministry of Truth. Christmas cards sent by MI5 officers in 1918 are still classified as secret; perhaps the idea of a "seasonal message" sounded sinister. And researchers there have only just been given access to a dusty confidential file, only to discover that it contained a synopsis from the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

The programme attempted, in what was apparently supposed to be a jocular manner, to investigate the general secretiveness of British society and suggested, quite rightly, that most officials enjoy the experience of being entrusted with "confidential" information. It gives them something not to talk about. It seems, by the way, that civil servants really do hang net curtains at the windows of their offices; they are the Brighton landladies of government.

Programme attempted,

Theatre

Unpleasantly promising start

The Killing of
Mr Toad
King's Head

The wistful charm of *The Wind in the Willows* suggests that it was a dream world into which the author, Kenneth Grahame, needed to escape. David Gresham's play shows us what he was escaping from: marriage at 40 to a powerful lady called Elspeth after a grotesquely winsome courtship, a brief consummation on what they called the "poppymoon", a long decline into lovelessness and withdrawal, and anxiety over their only son Alastair's sickness and inadequacy.

Dreaming of Mole, Ratty and Badger after her husband's death, Elspeth (Deborah Norton) murmurs that they are so like him. Toad is the exception; surprisingly enough, Toad was Alastair. Instead of the wistful charm of *The Wind in the Willows* suggests that it was a dream world into which the author, Kenneth Grahame, needed to escape. David Gresham's play shows us what he was escaping from: marriage at 40 to a powerful lady called Elspeth after a grotesquely winsome courtship, a brief consummation on what they called the "poppymoon", a long decline into lovelessness and withdrawal, and anxiety over their only son Alastair's sickness and inadequacy.

This unaccountable choice brought us Siegfried Jerusalem for scarcely more than five minutes as a young hero of unwavering voice, but it did allow more opportunity to admire the Telemann of Hartmut Welker, expressively alert and musical, if not always able to ride the LSO's forceful accompaniment of his sour grapes. The two ladies were cross-dressed, Rosalind Plowright as Elsa in black and Eva Randová as Ortrud in white, which seemed significant, for it was Miss Plowright who first played the more awesome lower register while Miss Randová was all sweetness and light at the top.

However, an enterprise as

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL
Delmén Quartet

and the *Second* of his Six Orchestral Pieces, Op 6, in the reduced scoring. Mr Abbado presented them as a funeral march wreathed in flowers. All vehemence was tightly suppressed except for a snarling snarl from the brass at the culmination of the march, followed by the percussion in a frenzy of battering. Otherwise the emphasis was on delicacy of phrasing, from solo wind, particularly, and perfection of sound, though through it all came too the cold ferocity of the young Webern as seen in a remarkable portrait by Max Oppenheimer included in *Vienna 1900*.

So far the only music entirely unrelated to the festival's Viennese theme has come in the morning recitals, the first three of which have all included music by Debussy. On Tuesday it was the turn of his String Quartet, given a purposefully unsophisticated account by the

Melos Quartet of Stuttgart Queen's Hall

The Edinburgh Festival's rediscovery of Zemlinsky took another brave step forward yesterday morning when the Melos Quartet from Stuttgart played the third of his Four Quartets. Composed in 1924, the piece belongs very much to the same period as *The Dwarf*, seen earlier in the week, and like that opera it is a tale of beauty and the beast.

Each of the four movements

includes grotesque, stumbling little ideas, or pulsating ostinati along with long melodies that may dance in the sunlight of a clear tonality but

are themselves sublimely free from the shackles of key. Often it turns out too, as it does in Zemlinsky's Second Quartet, that the cracked motif and the airy line are drawn out of the same pattern of notes: beauty and the beast are one.

That lesson comes

MARKET REPORT

Fraser shares jump 16p

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Aug 15. Dealings end, Sept 2. Contango Day, Sept 5. Settlement Day, Sept 12.

THE TIMES 1000

1982/1983

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Shares in House of Fraser jumped 16p yesterday to 244p on persistent buying from about five main sources.

One market trader was suggesting that Mr Jack Hayward, the Bahamas-based millionaire, had picked up a further 250,000 Fraser shares taking his total to 2.5 million. At that level his stake is worth more than £6m.

A substantial drop in business volume before the bank holiday weekend gave stock market traders the breathing space needed to steady prices after the sharp fall on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Although the slight increase against the leaders was technical there was little genuine investment demand.

Activity was once again dominated by company news and bid rumours. By the close of the FT 30 index showed a marginal gain of 0.8 at 717.4.

Dealers have been warily eyeing the gilt-edged sector to see if any movement there could support a renewed upward climb but they were disappointed by gains of only £1/8 where changed.

Only the index-linked sector bucked the trend with gains of more than £1, investors once again attracted by the 3 per cent to 4 per cent return over inflation offered by the sector.

Fears of a higher inflation rate between now and next year were an added incentive. Traders discounted views that the Government might nudge interest rates downward to give a boost to the economy.

Despite sentiment dampened by a lack-luster Wall Street the failure of any further American sales of Glaxo and ICI helped steady leaders. Glaxo dropped 10p to 800p, while ICI were 4p better at 428p.

Confirmation that Morgan Guaranty is to begin trading Boots shares in the form of American Depository Receipts from next week gave the shares a 5p boost to 178p. That comes after news of clearance for Boots to sell its new pain-killing

drug Ibuprofen over-the-counter in America.

Elsewhere, among the leaders the disappointing figures, although chairman Mr John

climbed 10p to 178p. Dale Electric disclosing profits up 73 per cent, and duly firms 5p to 88p.

Buy recommendations prompted a 22p gain in the shares of Miss World, though a likely bid candidate, and 10p in Stobart and Pitt, up 10p at 108p.

Windsor Resources has been attracting some heavyweight investment lately. The shares have run up from 11p to 30p over the last 10 days and jobbers report blocks of 50,000 upwards being bought. The story is that the company will shortly announce the result of its capital reconstruction which will show net asset value rising to more than £1 a share.

Milne says the worst may be over.

Bath and Portland jumped 11p to 114p on the prospects for recovery in profitability, while BSR which reported a dramatic turnaround in its profits.

Leading oils saw early gains trimmed as Bristol reported its

figures which left the shares unchanged at 240p.

News that Gulf is after to develop its offshore fish oil find prompted buyers to rush back into Atlantic Resources and Eginton which have both been cut severely. Atlantic jumped 40p to 325p while Eginton jumped 30p to 180p. A new share to join speculative oil exploration favourites was Inert Energy, drilling in France, up 22p at 225p.

The mining finance sector saw a little action yesterday as Consolidated Gold Fields moved up 3p to 265p ahead of figures due in about a fortnight.

The group, which was the subject of secret share-buying sprees three years ago, has been checking out mystery shareholders again. It said all nominees have owned up.

Consgold's largest shareholder is Minoro, controlled by the South African businessman Mr Harry Oppenheimer, a company which has been accumulating vast amounts of cash.

Wayne Lintott

RECENT ISSUES

Aeronic Group	15p Ord (15)
Amico	10p Ord (10)

Atlantic Resources

Investment and Finance
City Editor
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THE TIMES
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 200 Gray's Inn Road
 London WC1X 8EZ
 Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 717.4 up 0.8
 FT Gilt: 79.71 up 0.8
 FT All Share: 456.14 up 1.62
 Bargains: 19.701
 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 100 up 0.73
 New York: Dow Jones Average (latest): 1181.71 down 2.54
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9143.07 down 4.27
 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 581.91 down 0.27
 Amsterdam: 146.6 down 2.9
 Sydney: AD Index 687.7 down 10.7
 Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 533.30 down 3.20
 Brussels: General Index 133.45 down 0.42
 Paris: CAC Index 137.7 up 0.3
 Zurich: SKA General Index 285.2 down 0.5

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.5080 down 1.1 cents
 Index 84.7 down 0.9
 DM 3.9750
 Frf 11.9750
 Yen 366.50
 Dollar
 Index 127.6 up 0.1
 NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.5030
 INTERNATIONAL
 ECUS 5.0857
 SDREO 6.92933

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Bank base rates 9%
 Finance houses base rate 10
 Discount market loans week fixed 9%
 3 month interbank 9%
 Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 9%
 3 month DM 5%
 3 month Fr F15-14%

US rates
 Bank prime rate 11.00
 Fed funds 9%
 Treasury long bond 103%
 103%

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period July 6 to August 2, 1983 inclusive: 9.989 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
 em \$422.50 pm \$423.26
 close \$423.50 £280-280.75
 unchanged
 New York latest: \$423.25
 Krugerrand (per coin): \$436-437.50 (£289-290)
 Sovereigns (new): \$99.75-100.75 (£66-66.75)
 *Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interims: Martin Black, L. M. Ericsson, Exeter Building and Construction, Investment Trust of Guernsey, Miss World Group, Scottish Northern Invest, Wagon Finance, Ward Holdings. Finals: Highgate & Job, Raybeck. Economic statistics: None announced.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Davenport Knitwear, Allen House, Newark Street, Liverpool (11.30) Lennon Group, Lord Daresbury Hotel, Daresbury, Warrington, Cheshire (noo) Rotaprint, Cumberland Road, off Honeypot Lane, NW8 (11.30) Segomana Group, 185 St Vincent Street, Glasgow (12.00)

Trade figures hit sterling

Sterling was under sporadic pressure in the foreign exchange markets yesterday because of the poor July trade figures and recent gloomy forecasts for the economy.

Market trading was thin as sterling fell 1.1 cents against the dollar and closed at \$1.5080. Against the German mark, the pound fell below DM4, closing 3.5 pence lower on the day at DM3.9750, and it lost 10 cents against the French frank to Frf11.9750.

The pound's trade-weighted value against a basket of currencies ended the day 0.9 lower at 84.7.

The dollar was on the sidelines after its volatile movements of recent weeks but ended fractionally higher against the mark at DM2.6365 - up 15 points.

● Louise International finance is raising a £m 75m (51%) seven-year Eurobond with a yield of 9 per cent, market sources have reported. The bond is priced at par.

Battle for games manufacturer is not over, says BPCC chief

Waddington beats off Maxwell as institutions switch allegiance

By Jonathan Clare

An about-turn by three institutional shareholders yesterday switched an expected victory from Mr Robert Maxwell in his battle for control of John Waddington, the Monopoly games manufacturer.

The three institutions withdrew their acceptance of Mr Maxwell's £1.8m bid from Mr Maxwell's British Printing and Communication Corporation at the eleventh hour. News of the about-turn came as Mr Maxwell was ready to declare that he had received more than 50 per cent acceptances and the bid was therefore unconditional.

The three institutions account for 5.5 per cent of Waddington's shares. Their holding together with the support already promised to the

Waddington board from holders of 46.2 per cent makes it impossible for Mr Maxwell to declare his offer unconditional. The most significant change of heart came when the Norwich Union insurance group, which has 4.4 per cent stake, responded to a direct appeal from the Waddington chairman, Mr Victor Watson, and managing director, Mr David Perry.

The other about-turns came from the Scottish Amicable life insurance company, which has about 0.9 per cent of the shares, and a smaller holder with 0.2.

Scottish Amicable said last night that it had previously accepted the cash alternative but withdrawn and "sold at a higher price to parties presumably

friendly to the Waddington camp".

Later Mr Maxwell said: "The battle is not over yet - people can come undone from their side as well, you know."

He intends to extend his share offer today from its present closing date of this afternoon. No decision on the period has been taken but the offer cannot be extended beyond two weeks under takeover rules.

The Norwich Union had accepted the BPCC share offer but the Scottish Amicable had opted for the cash alternative which closed last week and cannot be re-opened. Shareholders who accept a takeover bid can withdraw before it is declared unconditional.

Mr Maxwell added: "I have had several Waddington's shareholders complain that they had up to eight telephone calls from the company urging them

to withdraw their acceptances. This borders on harassment."

Mr Maxwell's advisers will now lobby hard to get some of the pro-Waddington board shareholders to change their minds.

Kleinwort said that Mr Maxwell had no new information to give shareholders, he could not make a new offer under the Takeover Panel's rules and the cash offer had already closed.

But the firm admitted that although the battle had "taken a fundamental turn", the fight was not yet over.

Waddington has enjoyed the support of two big shareholders, Britannia Assurance and M&G, which account for about a fifth of the shares.

Brazil's original multi-billion dollar rescue package fell apart because it was too small and Brazil was unable to meet conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund. Bankers are now working on big assumptions but if it works out that way Brazil should then be able to repay the BIS with loans released by the IMF.

Then, however, the real problems start. How to satisfy Brazil's external financing needs of about £2.6bn for the rest of this year and £3.9bn next year?

Commercial bankers are adamant that they cannot fork out the whole £2.6bn and the popular assumption is that governments/official agencies will chip in at least £1.9bn. Quite who these governments/official agencies are remains a mystery.

Crippling Debts

As for the commercial banks, those with large exposures to Brazil may feel there is no alternative to pumping in large sums.

But will they be able to persuade their smaller brethren to contribute to what could be one of the biggest syndicated loans ever, for a country in Brazil's position?

Even the bullying of the IMF and central banks may not be sufficient.

Interest payments on its huge debts are crippling Brazil and any amount of internal economic adjustment is not going to reduce that burden.

Barring another historic loosening of the monetary reins by the Federal Reserve to bring down interest rates, along the lines of its action last summer when Mexico was teetering on the brink, both banks and governments may be forced to consider much more painful and radical measures.

Banks may have to consider such taboo options as rescheduling interest or reducing it in the form of trade credits.

Governments, for their part, will have to recognize that the banks cannot do it all on their own. And if this lends greater urgency to the search for long-term solutions to the debt crisis, so much the better.

BSR back in profit as debts decline

By Andrew Corcoran

BSR International, the audio, electronics and kitchenware group, is back in profit at the interim stage after its make-or-break capital reconstruction this year.

Mr Bill Wyllie, chairman, who masterminded the £20m cash call which made the refinancing possible, yesterday reported pretax profits of £6.2m for the six months ending June 30, against losses of £1.8m at the same stage last year and losses of £1.5m for 1982.

Mr Wyllie said at BSR's new corporate headquarters in Hongkong that he is looking for a further significant improvement in profits during the second half of the year. An indication of the board's confidence in progress is the promise to recommend payment of a final dividend of at least 1.5p this year.

The refinancing helped cut short-term debts from £42m to £17.5m.

An important part of the group's strategy in Britain is to switch production to new growth areas.

Mr Wyllie said that there will be further rationalization and divestment of activities within the group, but no redundancies are planned in Britain.

BSR's shares rose by 10p to 175p.

The British audio and kitchenware businesses should be trading in the black by the end of the year.

Surge in leading shares

WALL STREET

Dupont fell 1/8 to 52; Lockheed fell 3 5/8 to 103.

General Dynamics fell 2 5/8 to 46 2/8; Eastern Kodak fell 1/8 to 67 3/8; Delta Airlines fell 1/8 to 30 and Minnesota Mining fell 1/8 to 79.

In the broader market, declining issues were ahead of gainers about four to three.

International Business Machines 1 1/8 to 115 3/8; General Electric fell 1/2 to 47; General Motors fell 1/8 to 66 3/4; Dupont fell 1/8 to 50.

NCR was 112 7/8, up 1 7/8; Raytheon at 47 2/8 was down 7/8; Mead Corporation was unchanged at 33; Colco at 34 5/8 was down 1 1/8; Exxon at 37 7/8 was unchanged; Allied Corporation at 50 was up 1/8.

Trade Development Bank Holding S.A.

Luxembourg

Announcement to Shareholders

Approval was given at the General Meeting of Shareholders of Trade Development Bank Holding S.A. ("TDBH") held on August 25, 1983 for all items on the agenda, including a distribution - for each 100 TDBH shares outstanding - of a dividend consisting of US\$ 800 in cash, 27* American Express Company ("Amexco") common shares, and 10 warrants to purchase 20* Amexco common shares at US\$ 27.50 per share.

The following should be considered by shareholders who have TDBH shares in bearer form:

1. As from the distribution date (August 29, 1983) each shareholder should present coupons 12, 13 and 14 of his TDBH shares either directly to one of the paying agents mentioned herebelow, or request his own bank to do so on his behalf. Coupons 12 will be exchanged for cash in US\$, coupons 13 for Amexco common shares, and coupons 14 for Amexco warrants.

2. Upon presentation of coupons 13 and 14 the paying agents will acknowledge to the shareholder his right to the appropriate number of shares and warrants, and, in accordance with his instructions, have the certificates made out, registered, and delivered.

3. There will be no delivery of fractional shares or warrants. Fractional rights will be paid in cash at the market value of the shares and warrants as of the date of presentation of the coupons.

The distribution will continue until October 28, 1983. After October 28, 1983, the Company will sell any shares and warrants of American Express Company not distributed due to non-presentation of coupons 13 and 14, and will hold the US dollar proceeds of such sale for any payment against future presentation of coupons 13 and 14. Presentation of coupons 12, 13 and 14 as outlined hereabove should be made to any of the paying agents listed below:

Manufactures Hanover Limited, 8 Princes Street, London BC2P 2EN
 Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A., 2 Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg
 Manufactures Hanover Bank Belgium, 13, rue de Ligne, 1000 Brussels
 Manufactures Hanover Trust Company, Bockenheimer Landstrasse 51/53, Frankfurt
 Trade Development Bank, 30 Monument Street, London EC3R 8LH
 Trade Development Bank (Luxembourg) S.A., 34 avenue de la Porte-Naue, Luxembourg

*calculated after the effect of the 3 for 2 stock split of 10th August 1983

Bruto tops forecasts

IN BRIEF

Bigger stake for Holmes a Court

Blue Circle Industries Half-year to 30.6.83

Pretax profit £48.2m (£51.5m)

Stattd earnings 26.5p (31p)

Turnover £208.6m (£375.7m)

Net interim dividend 8p (8p)

Share price 43p down 15p Yield 6%

The profits fall short of stock market expectations and the shares in the FT 30 share index, up 15p to 43p. The unchanged interim dividend of 6p also caused some disappointment.

Improvement in Britain is expected to be maintained in the second half when domestic profits will also benefit from a full six-month contribution from Aбертхав, bought last March for £26m, the conversion of the Northfleet and Shoreham cement works to a more energy efficient process, and other cost cutting measures.

Pre-tax profits fell from £56m in the six months to the end of June were ahead of the estimates made in the prospectus issued when the Government placed 51 per cent of the company on the stock market last November. Analysts had expected profits to be closer to £60m, however, with an interim dividend of 4p as opposed to the 3.3p announced yesterday.

British is still on target to hit its £48m profit forecast, and its

share price 228p

forecast of a full-year dividend of 9.9p will almost certainly be met. The results are in line with those published for the previous year on a pre-fair basis when British was wholly state-owned.

Provision for corporation tax is also being made by British at a rate of 52 per cent: in the pro forma year, provision during seven months was at 27 per cent and, for the remaining five months, 52 per cent.

British wins larger share of £1bn nuclear work

Sizewell victory for industry

By David Young
 Energy Correspondent

British industry has responded to a challenge from the nuclear power programme to take orders worth millions of pounds from foreign companies which were originally in line to supply equipment for the Sizewell nuclear power station in Suffolk.

After talks with the Central Electricity Generating Board, British suppliers have met specification requirements which means that apart from several million pounds worth of specialized equipment most of the overall estimated cost of £1.147m will be spent in Britain.

Originally 10 per cent of the contract had been earmarked to be met by overseas suppliers.

Sir Walter Marshall, chairman of the CEGB, said yesterday: "In recent weeks we have made substantial progress in discussions with potential suppliers of components. We are now confident that the majority, both in number and value, can be supplied by British manufacturers.

"It is not possible to be precise, but as a result we now

expect the hardware import content of Sizewell will only be a few tens of millions of pounds and not the £100m we originally expected.

In terms of overall value the import content would be very small indeed".

Sir Walter was speaking during a visit to Sheffield Forgemasters, a private company formed from the forging and melting facilities of British Steel and Firth Brown, which ironically will not be able to

COMPANY NEWS
IN BRIEF

Hamburger Brooks
Year to 31.5.83.
Pre-tax profit £81,000 loss £33,000.
Stated earnings 5.63p (loss 2.55p).
Turnover £4.4m (£4.4m).
Net dividend none.

Rohan Group (Irish currency)
Half-year to 30.6.83.
Pre-tax profit £1m (£1.9m).
Stated earnings 10.67p (18.88p).
Turnover £1.5m (£1.03m).
Net interim dividend 5.85p (same).

New Darien Oil Trust
Half-year to 31.7.83.
Attributable profit 77.904 (£32.916).
Stated earnings 0.08p (0.33p).

J. Saville Gordon Group
Year to 30.4.83.
Pre-tax profit £566,000 (£1.1m).
Stated earnings 2.63p (3.1p).
Turnover £1.8m (£1.9m).
Net dividend 3.38p (£2.21p).
Shares price 61p up 5p. Yield 7.5%.

Queens Moat Houses
Nine months to 30.6.83.
Pre-tax profit £21,000 (£21.1m).
Stated earnings 1.51p (1.5p).
Net interim dividend 0.655p.
Share price 35.5p unchanged.
Yield 5.4%.

Yorkshire Chemicals
Half-year to 30.6.83.
Pre-tax profit £664,000 (loss
£275,000).
Turnover £13.8m (£10m).
Net interim dividend None.
Share price 79p down 5p.
Yield 1.3%.

Silverthorne Group
Half-year to 27.7.83.
Pre-tax profit £125,000 (£69,000).
Stated earnings 3.31p (3.1p).
Turnover £1.8m (£1.8m).
Net interim dividend 0.5p (same).
Share price 114p up 10p.
Dividend payable 24.9.83.

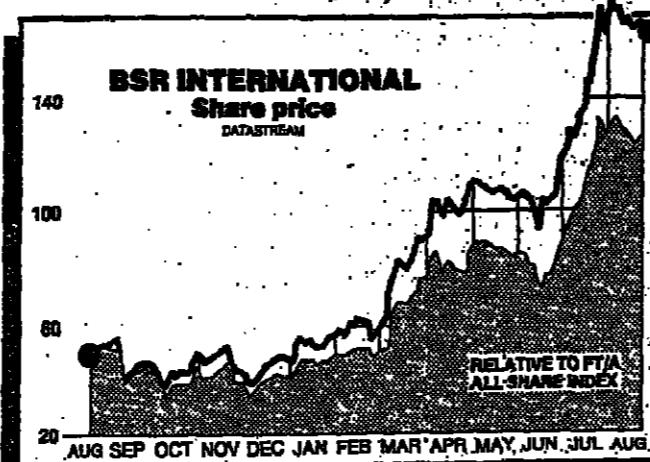
Scottish Investment Trust
Nine months to 31.7.83.
Pre-tax profit 25m (£27.2m).
Turnover 27.2m (£25.2m).
Share price 151p down 1p. Yield
3.5%.

BBA Group
Half-year to 30.6.83.
Pre-tax profit £2.8m (£3.1m).
Stated earnings 1.42p (1.61p).
Turnover 277.7m (£26.6m).
Net interim dividend 0.84p (same).
Share price 38p down 1p. Yield
6.4%.

UBM has reiterated its rejection of the terms of Norcross's £64m bid in response to Wednesday's official offer document for the builders' merchanting group. UBM's defence document is likely to dismiss Norcross's criticism of past performance and measurement of the value of the company's recovery this year. A profit forecast is unlikely at this stage, but could be made if Norcross increases its offer.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Capper-Neill welcomes CCC strength



BSR Int

BSR International
Half-year to 30.6.83.
Pre-tax profit £5.5m (£1.8m).
Stated earnings 3p (1.7p loss).
Turnover £1.1m (£102.2m).
Net interim dividend 0.5p (nil).
Share price 178p up 10p.

Those investors who stayed with BSR International during its make-or-break capital reconstruction this year can look forward at last to a resumption of dividends and profits.

Yesterday the shares rose 10p to 178p on news that BSR had returned pre-tax profits of £5.5m

for the six months to June 30, against losses of £1.8m at the same stage last year. The share price was further strengthened by the drop in short-term debt from £42m to £2.8m, and in total group debt from £107m to £78m.

The British side should return trading profits by the end of the year after interim losses of £30m and total losses last year of £1.5m.

Investors must now look for growth from BSR's high technology, audio, computer and electronics business in the Far East and US to make up for the lack of British profits.

Yesterday the shares rose 10p to 178p on news that BSR had

The Bath and Portland Group

The Bath and Portland Group
Half-year to 30.4.83.
Pre-tax profit £163,000 (£1.8m).
Stated earnings 0.34p (4.3%).
Turnover £42m (£41.8m).
Net interim dividend 2.5p (2.5p).
Share price 114p up 10p.

much, leaving B&P to shoulder

the enormous overheads. LTA is paying £300,000 for net assets of just over £800,000, which will probably be adjusted down at the year end to take account of the division's present losses.

B&P is expanding its instrumentation division by buying a Dutch instrumentation company for £1.3m cash. It is also investing heavily in its traditional quarrying business.

B&P has certainly bitten the bullet hard. But, ironically the absence of the civil engineering milestone could arouse interest among predators attracted by its mineral resources. If it comes to a fight, who better to defend it than a former head of the takeover Panel?

Morgan Guaranty is to issue American Depository Receipts in Books from next week. The US bank has bought a small amount of stock through London brokers for this purpose but it is not yet sure how many it will issue.

The problem was not that big projects like the Hongkong Metro have lost money, just that they have not contributed

to those things are clear. The first is that Capper-Neill should be far stronger financially than for several years. The link with CCC, which effectively became the owner, will give access to the Middle Eastern markets which were part of Capper-Neill's problem. The cash injection, totalling £1.3m, and the replacement of part of the crippling overdraft by a £14m loan from the banks, will give all the breathing space for which the company can reasonably ask to carry it through a period of readjustment.

But the second point may be more important, given recent events. The existing board will, to all intents and purposes, be entirely replaced, and the company will be run by directors who command CCC's support. Shareholders can be forgiven for feeling concern about a management which, after announcing an interim loss of only £700,000 in December and expressing its confidence in the company's long term prospects, reveals, barely six months later, extraordinary debts of more than £20m. Without the rescue by the banks, Capper-Neill out.

What the long term holds, however, remains obscure. Capper-Neill says that CCC is expanding its mechanical construction operations so there will presumably be a part for Capper-Neill to play in that development. Capper Pipe Services has been a sound business and will probably continue.

But the major questions are about the future of the process plant engineering, an important and prestigious part of the company, and of the manufacturing side.

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Official auction
Official turnover figures
Position in metal per tonne
Silver in pence per troy ounce
COPPER HIGH GRADE
Cash
T/0:
T/1:
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APPOINTMENTS

Change at Midland

Midland Bank: Mr Hugh O'Brien, group treasurer; Thomas Cook, is to be assistant general manager (financing) operations.

The British Owners and Commonwealth Banks Association: Mr Peter Walker, a general manager of Standard Chartered Bank, has been elected deputy chairman. Mr G. T. Watson has been appointed honorary secretary.

Sun Alliance Insurance Group: Mr J. Rochelle, manager, computer department, is to be group computer manager of management services and planning division. Mr E. G. Coward is now group commercial underwriting manager with responsibility for home division, commercial underwriting and overseas division international underwriting.

Hawker Siddeley Group: Mr S. D. Goward, has joined the board of Brook Control Gear as director and general manager. Mr J. I. Fleming has been appointed to the board of Crompton Instruments (South East Asia), as director and general manager.

Supra Sureparts: Mr A. A. Long has become managing director.

Eskilstuna Securities: Mr William Tyne is joining the board with special responsibility for the company's capital markets activities in the US. He will be based in London.

WARRIOR INT'L BANK (LONDON) LTD.
31-41 Market Street, Liverpool,
Merseyside L1 9JY, England
Tel: 051 747115
Soc Gen Manager Market Trust
PDS
BOSTON
DUTCH
FRENCH
GOLD
HONG KONG
ITALIAN
JAPANESE
SWISS FRANC
US \$

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	11%
Consolidated Crds	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgages below rate.
* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000. 9% up to £20,000. 7% over £20,000 and over.

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

How the building societies have forgotten about profitability

BUILDING SOCIETY ADVERTISING 1981/82

(£'000s as measured by Meal, 'broad' rate card)

	1981	Rank	%TV	1982	Rank	%TV
Halifax	4625	2	53	6808	1	65
Abbey National	4574	1	31	5298	2	25
Leeds Permanent	3579	3	44	4850	3	69
Bradford & Bingley	2504	6	35	4481	4	30
Anglia	2295	5	45	3755	5	52
Woolwich	1514	7	57	2253	6	45
Leicester	775	9	70	2480	7	57
Alliance	499	12	-	1888	8	59
Provincial	1190	8	36	1848	10	50

Of all the areas of business which have discovered Marketing in recent years, few have embraced it with more enthusiasm than the building societies.

Heavy television advertising campaigns, wave after wave of "new products" in the form of higher-interest accounts aimed at different groups of savers, and the use of popular children's characters such as Mickey Mouse and Paddington Bear all testify to the eagerness with which the hitherto staid and slow societies have taken on board the lessons of the corn flake and soap powder companies.

Despite recent problems, the change of approach and huge increase in marketing expenditure (£44m on advertising last year, compared with £44m two years ago) seems at first sight to have been amply justified. Last year the building societies recorded the highest net receipts in their history and all but one of the top ten societies, which tend to be the biggest spenders, increased their assets by 17 per cent or more.

"Perhaps that suggests that societies' marketing strategies were highly successful," says one building society executive, Mr Richard Lacy, and most societies might agree. "I believe that is a very naive view of our industry's performance," he adds.

"Many societies seem to me to have spent much of the last two years raising extra funds at the highest cost, advertising premium-rate accounts and transferring a huge volume of profitable share account funds. This, to me, is not carefully planned marketing – it is the strategy of growth at all costs."

Mr Lacy is not against building societies spending heavily on advertising and marketing. Indeed, as general manager in charge of marketing at the Leicester Building Society, he has spent as much as most on television commercials and launch of new schemes, most notably the Leicesterscard and a tie-up with National Girobank that has given the society 20,000 new Post Office outlets. The Leicester was the 10th biggest society last year, with assets of £2,060m.

"The Leicester's average cost of funds was lower than all the others in the top ten last year and in 1983 we have reduced that cost even further," says Mr Lacy.

This has been achieved by



On the road: touring building society in TV commercial

concentrating the society's of their business from share marketing efforts on increasing share accounts and the next 11 only 50 per cent. Three years ago, nearly 80 per cent of the industry's funds was held in share accounts.

The marketing challenge for the Leicester was to make its share account attractive to investors, despite the fact that every other building society was offering the same rate of interest and that other societies had more branches. The answer to the first problem was the Leicesterscard – a discount card available to share account

holders – and the other was the link-up with National Girobank.

The Leicesterscard was devised by Mr Lacy and his newly-appointed advertising agency, Wight Collins Rutherford Scott.

According to Mr Robin

Wright, the agency chairman,

"Research showed us that there was no great difference in the minds of the public between the Leicester and their societies, so we developed the Leicesterscard as a 'separation', to distinguish.

The Leicesterscard offers share-account holders cheque book accounts and personal loans, together with discounts on a wide range of goods and services.

The launch, in February last year, received great publicity even before the first advertising – positioning the Leicester as the "Moreser" – began. "In the space of 10 months, we received applications for 125,000 Leicesterscards," says Mr Lacy. "We have now had more than 200,000 and by the end of the year it will be 300,000."

In the month after the launch, the Leicester opened a record number of accounts and the growth has continued. Yet the fact remains that the other big societies drew in deposits faster last year by their cruder method of offering interest premiums. The Leicester now seems likely to hedge its bets and follow the other societies' tactics in addition to its own marketing efforts.

The five biggest societies are to offer a 1½ per cent differential over basic share rate from September 1, and Mr Lacy believes that Leicester has at least built a stronger springboard from which to challenge them on their own terms. An announcement is possible within the week.

DEREK CROUCH

Interim Report for the Half Year to 30th June, 1983

	1983 First six months £'000's	1982 First six months £'000's	Year £'000's
Turnover	28,825	28,769	59,805
Earnings before Tax and Interest	857	1,345	2,613
Interest Payable	680	834	1,739
Earnings before Tax Charges and Taxation	177	414	874
Dividends	285	210	(305)
Earnings per Share	2.29p	1.68p	5.5p

Opencast mining in the UK is still profitable, but at a reduced level due principally to the continuing restrictions being placed on output over and above contractual amounts.

In the U.S.A., coal markets are also suffering from the world surplus and Power Inc. the company set up in the U.S.A. five years ago, incurred a loss after tax.

Power Inc. has taken complete control of Power Inc. with effect from 18th July by buying out, for a nominal sum, the 40% minority interest held by the two American fuel distribution firms who partnered Derek Crouch in setting up the venture in 1978.

The principal asset of Power Inc. is some 20,000 acres of coal-bearing land in central Pennsylvania with reserves of approximately 20 million tons of recoverable coal available for extraction. A \$1.5m working grant was commissioned by Power Inc. last year to upgrade the quality of the output and open the way to improved outlets and prices and as a result of the improvement of Power Inc., has maintained its share of a highly competitive market.

The Board believes that, although the coal market in the U.S.A., as in other countries, is soft at the moment, the longer term prospects are good. Further investment was required to develop the remaining 80% of the mine and the partners were unable to do so alone, thus, as a result they agreed to sell their interests in Power Inc. to Derek Crouch. They will, however, continue to act as selling agents for Power Inc. although not on an exclusive basis. The Board believes that the consolidation of Derek Crouch's U.S. interest will bring benefit in the longer term.

On the construction side, the Company is continuing its search for more opportunities in private development, particularly reducing its dependence on the oil and gas industry. Claims and final accounts are still proving extremely difficult to progress and finalise. Claims are only taken into account when agreed.

As yet, there are no signs of an upturn in the construction industry. The Directors of Derek Crouch intend to pay a maintained interim dividend of 1.53p which will be payable on 28th October, 1983.

DEREK CROUCH PLC

Head Office: Peterborough PE6 7UW

Telephone:

Peterborough (0733) 222341 Telex: 32128



SUMMARY OF INTERIM RESULTS

First Six Months
(Inaudited)

1983	1982
Turnover	£m
121.1	102.2
Operating Profit	£m
6.2	3.0
Profit before Taxation	£m
4.1	(1.8)
Profit after Taxation	£m
3.0p	(2.0)
Earnings per Share	p

HIGHLIGHTS OF FIRST SIX MONTHS

- Group Restructuring well advanced opening the way to a strong turnaround in trading performance
- Group Sales up 19% over first half of 1982
- Successful Rights Issue and placement of new shares in April raised £24.2m. net of expenses
- Balance Sheet strengthened during the half year
- Group has diversified further from former traditional business and is now predominantly engaged in the development and manufacturing of high technology electronic components
- Continuing improvement and strong profit growth forecast for second half
- Restoration of interim Dividend
- Tax residence of parent company successfully moved to Hong Kong

BSR INTERNATIONAL PLC

To obtain copies of the full Interim report please write to: The Secretary, BSR International PLC, High Street, Wellington, Shropshire, West Midlands DY8 4PG, England

Britoil's first interim results – a successful period

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account (Unaudited)	Six Months ended 30.6.83 £ million	Pro Forma ended 31.12.82 £ million
Turnover	568.8	1,080.0
Operating profit	287.2	544.9
Net Interest payable	(12.4)	(30.6)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	274.8	514.3
Taxation		
Supplementary petroleum duty	—	(162.8)
Petroleum revenue tax	(138.1)	(152.1)
Corporation tax	(83.5)	(96.8)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation before extraordinary item	53.2	102.6
Extraordinary item (Privatisation expenses)	—	(3.6)
Profit for the financial period	53.2	99.0
Dividends payable	(16.5)	(18.8)
Amount set aside to reserves	36.7	80.2
Earnings per share	10.64p	n/a
Funds generated from operations less tax paid	276.5	577.3
Additions to fixed assets	153.9	316.3

Note: No comparison has been made with the six months ended 30 June 1982 since during that period the business was wholly under the control of The British National Oil Corporation and therefore, profits on a like-for-like comparison with that used for the six months ended 30 June 1983, are not available. Future interim reports will include a comparison with the same period of the previous year.

Review of Activities

Britoil's equity production for the six months to 30 June 1983 remained steady at around 148,000 barrels of oil per day. During the period, the Company re-affirmed its position as the most active explorer on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf. Of the 35 exploration wells drilled in the period, Britoil was involved in 12 of them – 5 as operator and 7 as a venture partner.

Also during the first six months, an application was made to the Government to develop the North Sea's first condensate field, North Brae, in which Britoil has a 20% interest. In addition, the Board agreed to support an application to develop the Victor gas field in which Britoil has a 25% interest.

Cricket: England rescued from early troubles after Tavar goes in second over and Gower is hit on the head

England's hopes are high as Botham and Randall come bouncing back

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

TRENT BRIDGE: England have scored 362 for seven against New Zealand.

England were extricated from their customary troubles by Botham and Randall when the fourth Cornhill Test started yesterday. Coming together at 169 for 5, they added 186 with a really splendid piece of bating. The effect on the balance of the match was devastating. At a quarter past three New Zealand must have been fancying their chances of winning it by close of play; they were on the way to losing.

Randall's 83 gave enormous local pleasure; universal pleasure in fact. What a wonderfully resilient creature he is. He always comes bouncing back, laying his game and bouting no grudges. Having dropped him from the Lord's Test, the selectors must have watched him yesterday, playing as well as I have ever seen him, with pleasure mixed with some embarrassment. He knows now he will be needing his trophic kit again next winter.

Yet the best news of the day was Botham's return to his form of a couple of years ago. As at Lord's last week, when he took Somerset to the finals of the NatWest Trophy, he played with massive authority. There were three of those backhand sweeps I don't care for; but even they all went for four, one off a full toss from Bracewell, being flicked away like an angled backhand volley. Botham had batted 23 times for England since making his last 100 for them. Now the prodigal son returned. There can be much rejoicing at that.

For half its course, the day bore a close resemblance to the opening day of the third Test at Lord's. Then, too, England batted first, and it was Gower again who gave the innings what early confidence it had. Not only that. Whereas at Lord's he was badly missed

Scorecard

ENGLAND: First Innings	
C. Tavar	vs C. Simmonds & D. Bracewell
J. Botham	100
D. Gower	83
A. J. Lamb	10
G. P. Howell	10
I. Botham	10
D. W. Randall	10
R.W. Taylor not out	10
N. P. O'Brien not out	10
Extras (8, 8, 15, 6, 7)	28
Total (7 wickets)	362
ROD HADLEE and N. G. Cowdrey to bat.	

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-9, 3-13, 4-15, 5-169, 6-265, 7-286.

BOWLING: Date: Hadlee, 23-4-90-1;

Sneddon, 15-5-90-1; Cairns, 7-7-0-1;

Gowar, 22-5-90-4; Cowdrey, 2-0-0-0; Gray, 2-0-0-0.

Umpires: N. D. Bradburn and J. M. Mayers.

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Umpires: N. D. Bradburn and J. M. Mayers.

NEAR NEW ZEALAND: B. Edger, T. J. Franklin, G. P. Howell, M. D. Gross, J. V. Conroy, R. J. Hadlee, E. J. Gray, N. A. Loxton, B. L. Cairns, J. G. Bracewell, M. C. Stretton.

Total (7 wickets)

ROD HADLEE and N. G. Cowdrey to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-9, 3-13, 4-15, 5-169, 6-265, 7-286.

BOWLING: Date: Hadlee, 23-4-90-1;

Sneddon, 15-5-90-1; Cairns, 7-7-0-1;

Steel gives an ultimatum on party manifesto

By Our Political Staff

Mr David Steel has made clear to his fellow MPs that should he be stripped of authority over the contents of the Liberal Party election manifesto he would find it impossible to continue as leader of the party.

All 16 of Mr Steel's party colleagues in Parliament have received a four-page letter in which he sets out his views on control of the manifesto and other issues to come before the Liberal Assembly in Harrogate next month.

Mr Steel insists that he is "certainly willing and indeed keen to continue the leadership of the party". But his letter is said to be critical of both the Association of Liberal Councillors and the Young Liberals.

MPs were at pains to play down the suggestion that Mr Steel's letter constitutes another threat to resign. In a postscript, Mr Steel recalls that the only threat he has made to resign was over the formulation of the Lib-Lab Pact when Mr James Callaghan was prime minister.

With Mr Steel on his sabbatical and no meetings planned before the assembly, MPs maintained it would have been unusual had he not written to them setting out his position.

A telephone call by *The Times* to Mr Steel's home at Ettrick Bridge confirmed that the Liberal leader, though much recovered from his viral infection, is sticking by his intention not to speak to the press until the assembly.

Though the word "resign" does not appear in the letter to MPs, the plain message is that were the assembly to take away

Alliance 'real threat'

Continued from page 1 opposition because it was the easier party to beat. I thought she was then trying to cling to Labour because she was sure she could always beat them."

But he added: "I think the Alliance will undoubtedly replace Labour as the main party of opposition and as the main party of government."

Certainly, the campaign for the Labour leadership shows no sign of altering Labour's direction. Mr Roy Hattersley, the main challenger to Mr Neil Kinnock, from the Labour right, has repeatedly shown that he is a wholehearted believer in socialism.

The Alliance, meantime,

provided it can work together without the Labour-style wrangling and infighting which has broken out in the wake of the election result, shows every sign of putting forward policies within the free enterprise framework. Mrs Thatcher's analysis that this is where the main political threat to the Conservatives will lie.

The Prime Minister returned to work at 10 Downing Street yesterday after a 13-day holiday by Lake Zug in Switzerland.

She was without the dark glasses which she wore after the eye operation at the beginning of this month. She told staff she felt fine.

Krakatoa volcano disaster 100 years ago today



Spectacular present-day photographs show the volcano between Java and Sumatra is still active a century after it erupted killing 36,000 people. The explosion was heard 3,000 miles away and meteorological effects could be seen in Britain. To mark the centenary the Natural History Museum opens an exhibition this morning, admission free.

Detained leaders moved out of Karachi

Zia may open talks with parties

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

Speculation was rife in Karachi last night that the martial law regime of President Zia ul-Haq has decided to open talks with the leaders of the banned political parties about the future of the country's democracy.

There was no official confirmation, but the speculation was set off by an administration decision to move at least four of the party leaders from detention in Karachi to a remote government rest house 50 miles away.

Together with the reported presence in the city of senior officers of the Pakistan Intelligence Bureau the move is taken as a portent that General Zia is relenting on his earlier reluctance to involve the parties.

Virtually every organ of public opinion in Pakistan has called for a dialogue with the party leaders about the move back to an elected democracy which General Zia announced unilaterally on August 12.

He has said that the electoral process will be completed by March, 1985 under a constitution amended to suit his tastes. The political parties have been calling for the immediate

abolition of martial law the restoration of the 1973 constitution and for elections now.

Public announcements of the President have taken a line much softer towards the politicians than his former tone. He said in Karachi on Wednesday that the politicians were "as much patriots as we are" and declared that he had been meeting political leaders from time to time in the past, and would continue this practice in the future.

If the President is planning such talks it will do much to take the sting out of the present campaign of unrest against his rule, and his proposed constitutional changes. It will in particular defuse a dramatic appeal circulating in Pakistan yesterday under the name of Begum Nasrat Bhutto, the widow of the executed Prime Minister.

Mrs Bhutto who is ailing in Paris, is chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, her husband's former party, and the PPP distributed the statement

of the Government. Infor-

mation Department immediately asked newspapers not to use a word of it.

The appeal urges Sindhis to continue and intensify the struggle, but it is principally aimed at the inhabitants of Punjab, Pakistan's most influential province.

Although Punjabi dissidents have been courting arrest in ones and twos each day in the same surge of popular feeling against the regime as has driven the Sindhis to widespread revolt has not materialized there. A Punjabi rising is essential if the present agitation is to succeed.

The statement said in part:

"To the people of Punjab, to the brave warriors of Punjab, we say we know you are anxious to participate in the movement for national redemption... Now is the time to pressure your party officials and Parliamentarians; tell them to come out...

"We say, listen to the bell that tolls. The bell is tolling, its sounds are echoing. Hear its call... The opportunity to act is here. It is a historic opportunity."

Mitterrand ready to fight Chad rebels

Continued from page 1

France would not interfere directly in the civil war between President Haby and Mr Gouoni Ouedde, leader of the Libyan-backed rebels. It had nothing against Mr Ouedde except that in invading the Libyans to intervene, he has provoked the internationalization of the conflict.

President Mitterrand admitted that getting the various parties involved round a negotiating table could prove difficult, adding in that context that it would be necessary to have "in-depth talks" with President Habré.

The Chadian President is likely to be reluctant to agree to negotiations without the prior commitment of the withdrawal of all Libyan troops from the north, however.

M Mitterrand also warned Libya that it would be "impudent" to count on the passage of time to wear down the French determination to obtain a fair settlement.

While expressing total opposition to a partition of Chad as part of that settlement, he did not rule out the possibility of

the creation of a federation between the traditionally warring north and south, adding quickly, however, that it was not for France to decide.

On Libyan ambitions in the area, M Mitterrand made clear that his difference of view with the United States was not so wide as commonly believed.

● NDJAMENA: M Hemu's visit here came as a surprise to the Chad Government, who became aware of it in the middle of a Cabinet meeting to discuss the crisis (Jon Swain writes). The Defence Minister carried a personal message from President Mitterrand to President Habré.

Some observers interpreted the visit as a sign that the military situation had become "preoccupying" again after the Libyan military build-up over the past few days.

Others interpreted it as a clear sign that French diplomatic attempts to find a solution to the war and to secure a Libyan military withdrawal have reached a critical phase where it has become essential to obtain M Habré's approval.

Leading article, page 9

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Food prices

Supplies of fresh herring seem to have been unaffected by the EEC dispute over North Sea quota and the consequent ban on fishing by certain countries, including Britain. The West of Scotland fishery has filled the gap, and at 60p to 70p a pound, herring is one of the week's best buys. Mackerel fillets, too, are recommended as an accompaniment to the salad season.

Chops, normally an extravagant way of buying meat, are nonetheless ideal for barbecues. Prices of both lamb and pork generally range from about £1 a lb to nearly £2, depending on the cut, but there are some cheaper buys. New Zealand lamb chops in Fine Fare 96p, frozen pork chops in Bejam for 49p. Whole legs of English lamb at as little as £1.20 a lb should be come out...

We say, listen to the bell that tolls. The bell is tolling, its sounds are echoing. Hear its call... The opportunity to act is here. It is a historic opportunity."

Work of Sandro Chia, figurative painter, Fruitmarket Gallery, 29 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 12, Sun 11 to 12, closed Sun & Mon (closed Sept 10).

Paintings by Mervyn Charlton, Festival Gallery, Pierrepont Place, Bath; Tues to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun & Mon (closed Sept 10).

Exhibitions in progress

Works of Albert Irvin, Ikon Gallery, 58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham; Tues to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun & Mon (closed Sept 17).

Soweto: The patchwork of our lives, Carmarthen Museum, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30 (closed Sept 10).

Paintings by Mervyn Charlton, Festival Gallery, Pierrepont Place, Bath; Tues to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun & Mon (closed Sept 10).

Autumn and winter supplies of vegetables will not be as plentiful as usual. Acute shortages nowadays are unlikely, but if you have a large freezer, take the opportunity now to buy before price rises. French and runner beans at about 40p a pound are excellent quality.

Other good buys include salad tomatoes, 20p a pound; breakfast tomatoes and slightly drier, peaches and nectarines 10p-15p a pound; English plums 20p a pound; honeydew melons about 25p each and Discovery apples becoming cheaper about 35p a pound.

Information supplied by the AA.

Flower Festival and exhibition: James Slade, Bolton Parish Church, Churchgate, Bolton, 9 am.

Music

The Maltings Proms: Recital by the Melos Ensemble; Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Aldeburgh, 7.30.

Concert by the Somersett Chamber Orchestra, Yatton Parish Church, Yatton, Somerset, 7.30.

Recital by Colin Carr (cello) and Francis Grier (piano); Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, 8.

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